

tariff. Why did Canada in 1913-14 import meats to the value of \$2,000,000; fish, \$2,500,000; eggs, \$2,750,000; butter, \$2,000,000; vegetables, \$3,000,000; and green fruits, \$10,000,000. Surely such importations call for more consideration than they have yet received. It cannot be a matter of indifference, even to those whose sympathies are towards free trade, that Canada, with its vast undeveloped resources, should pay out annually tens of millions of dollars for food supplies which, with little effort, can be produced, or substitutes provided, by our own people. Either we have developed luxurious spending to the border of national danger or production has been dislocated by some artificial cause which calls for speedy and thorough reform.

With up-to-date and disinterested information at their disposal federal ministers would be in a better position to deal with the industrial problems now facing them, as well as those which in the near future will call for speedy action. It is not suggested that the proposed industrial board should hold public hearings—its work is designed primarily to supply information in advance of national issues becoming matter of party controversy. Nor would the work of the board be confined to questions of tariff. Many matters affecting labor are now divided amongst the department of the interior, department of public works, department of labor and department of finance. Information now widely scattered and unrelated calls for continuous instead of spasmodic consideration, and should find a clearing house for general use in deciding problems continually arising, and which will become more urgent, even apart from issues connected with the war. A further important work of the board would be to ascertain the costs of production and marketing and the condition of labor in competitive markets, since it is not possible to shape a wise industrial policy and frame even a reasonably scientific tariff without this information.

The all-round development of Canadian resources does not involve necessarily the sacrifice of general to special interests. Ultimately, the general interest must prove of individual advantage; should this, however, not prove immediately true, there should be no uncertainty as to the intention of an accepted public policy. Compromises may be necessary, and these will more probably be accepted without dividing the country upon the issues involved if they are the result of carefully