

It is my turn now. It is turn about, and they say that is fair play. Now another one from Saskatoon:

Saskatoon, June 5, 1912.

Situation serious regarding shortage of cement. We have five million dollars tied up in this city for want of supplies. Strongly urge remission of duty for four months to enable us to get supplies from the United States. Work delayed during our short building season is a serious blow to development in construction of work of all kinds. City contractors state they are losing one thousand dollars per day by the enforced idleness of their labourers.

JAMES CLINKSKILL,
Mayor, Saskatoon.
M. ISBESTER,
President, Board of Trade.

Then I have another from Calgary—there is no hon. gentleman opposite from Calgary. I think, probably, that if it was known in Calgary that hon. gentlemen opposite were opposing this cut in cement, it would be a long time before there would be an hon. gentleman from the city of Calgary.

Calgary, June 5, 1912.

Scarcity of cement here. Local manufactured article used up. Calgary contractors buying from United States under hardship of duty of contracts awarded this organization petitions your Government to remove duty on Portland cement until the Canadian manufacturers are able to supply the demand for cement.

W. J. RICHARDS,
Pres. Cal. Builders Ex.

That last sentence answers my hon. friend with regard to the cessation of duties on the 31st of October. Does my hon. friend realize the uses to which cement is put? Does he realize that it is a basic commodity, and that it enters into the construction of buildings, and pavements, and works, and involves the employment of thousands of men? And in the short season in the West it is a most vital necessity that they should get the material early in the year. Will my hon. friends have the temerity, upon the strength of a letter, signed, so far as they are concerned, anonymously, to get up in this House and make a charge against me and against this Government of collusion in connection with such an important matter as the tariff?

Now, I come a little nearer home, and what do we find in Edmonton? Do we find Edmonton sharing in the views expressed here by my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver)? Whether he agrees or not with the views expressed by my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), he follows his leader, and he is bound by what his leader says. Yet this is what I received from the Edmonton Board of Trade:

Edmonton, June 5, 1912.

A special general meeting of Edmonton Board of Trade called to discuss cement situation unanimously approved action of our president yesterday in signing telegram asking for removal of duty on cement for period of four months to permit building operations here to proceed. It is pointed out unless immediate relief afforded more men will be idle in West owing cement shortage than are employed in entire cement industry of Dominion.

F. T. FISHER,
Secretary.

Now, here is the representative of Edmonton getting up, contending for an action, or at least an inaction, on the part of the Government which would involve the laying off of more men in the West, according to the statement of his own Board of Trade, than are employed in the whole cement industry in the Dominion of Canada. Now, is there not an apology coming to me? I am sorry my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) is not present, because he could share some of this with my hon. friend from Edmonton (Mr. Oliver). Is there not an apology coming to me for the suggestion that, because it happened to be the month of June, and an election in Saskatchewan was in the month of June, we had taken this action because of the election instead of by reason of those telegrams? Does my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) know where that reasoning leads him to? Does he realize that it leads to the conclusion that the Boards of Trade of Saskatoon and Calgary and Edmonton were in a conspiracy to influence the situation in Saskatchewan? Well, what about Winnipeg? It will be a long time before hon. gentlemen opposite will have any representative from Winnipeg, on account of the course they have taken with regard to this cement reduction, and for other reasons. This is from Winnipeg:

Winnipeg, June 7, 1912.

Please refer this Board's resolution December nineteenth and subsequent correspondence re cement merger contending rate of duty on this necessary article is excessive and petitioning Dominion Government for reduction or abolishment of duty. Since your letter March eighteenth stating matter would be laid before Government for consideration this board without any further advice. Serious shortage cement exists throughout western Canada. Building operations at standstill and erection of many postponed indefinitely. This board urge immediate action by Government in reduction or abolishment of duty as necessary to alleviate present serious situation.

C. N. BELL.

And then from North Battleford comes this:

North Battleford, Saskatoon,
June 8, 1912.
Cement shortage renders situation here