

from Australia before the treaty was completed. In addition to and tied up with the same matter we have the inquiry now going on before the agriculture committee into the price of milk and as to whether or not the consumer gets a fair share of that price. I ask the house to contrast this present situation with that which obtained under the old New Zealand treaty where that country shipped into this country some 36,000,000 pounds of butter per year. That was a tragic mistake which probably cost the then existing government its power. I have never been able to understand the attitude taken at that time, nor have I been able to understand the attitude taken since. If the New Zealand treaty was right, why was it abrogated? If it was wrong, why is it now defended?

Because of the grading policies of this government the per capita consumption of eggs in this country is the highest in all the world, it being thirty-one dozen per person. Our markets have been increased and this government is responsible for the fact that we sold 100,000 pounds of poultry to the old country just at Christmas time. This was largely due to the Imperial conference agreement and the ten per cent preference given to Canadian poultry. The quality of our poultry has been improved through the inspection and certification of flocks. This government has been interested in the creation of new grasses, notably the crested wheat grass created by Doctor Kirk. The work of the publications branch of the department is being carried on and any farmer can obtain the information he desires upon a particular subject by simply writing to the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

The question of markets must always enter into any discussion regarding agriculture. We have already upon Hansard the results of the

various tariff measures of the United States and it will be noticed that that market was closed to us before this government came into power. A great opportunity is open to this country, of which the Prime Minister is fully aware, in the possibility of a reciprocity treaty with the United States. Such a trade treaty has many possibilities, particularly with regard to live stock. I would not favour a treaty which might exist to-day and be cut off to-morrow but a treaty similar to those which we have with other parts of the British Empire and which run for a period of years would be of inestimable value to Canada. President Roosevelt appears to be anxious to enter into such a treaty.

As I have indicated already, the other markets of the world had been closed to us and last year the only market that remained as a possibility was the British Empire. To those who claim that the Imperial conference agreements have been of no use, may I say that in the ten months ended January 31 last we have increased our exports of wheat, oats, flour, beef, bacon, hams, pork, canned meats, poultry and milk by \$15,826,000. We now occupy fourth place in the British market and fifth place in the markets of the world. And it must be remembered that we have only some 10,000,000 people. As far as markets are concerned for our size we are enjoying larger markets than those enjoyed by any other country in the world.

I should like to refer to the tariff situation as it has existed under the different parties. I intend to quote from the government publication Trade in Canada published by the Bureau of Statistics. I desire to show the average rates of duty on dutiable imports and also on all imports for a number of years, as follows:

	Average Rates of Duty on	
	Dutiable imports	All imports
1917..	23.8	13.0
1918..	21.5	12.1
1919..	21.5	12.3
1920..	22.5	14.7
1921..	20.6	14.1
Average for 5 years, Conservatives..	21.9	13.2
1922..	24.5	16.2
1923..	24.9	16.7
1924..	22.9	15.1
1925..	23.3	15.1
1926..	24.7	15.5
Average for 5 years, Liberals..	24.0	15.7