

least 10,000 workmen were engaged on this work day by day in order that Canada might be supplied with agricultural implements. There was placed upon Hansard yesterday a statement of what that means in consuming capacity, in answer to a question by my hon. friend from Frontenac-Addington (Mr. Edwards). Think what that means in terms of food and food products. Weigh it carefully, make the computation in the light of the figures given yesterday and what I have given you from the American Commerce Reports, and I ask hon. gentlemen whether they believe that their hopes and expectations in this regard have been justified. I think, if they are the gentlemen I believe them to be, studying these matters as I know they do, that they will say no.

There is another matter. What is, after all, the attitude of any party towards tariffs? It is merely to utilize, if possible, this particular machinery of the government to accomplish a particular result. And what is that result? The result we hope for is to advance the interests of our country. I hold in my hand the February number of the National Review, in which at page 866 appears an article on the plight of British industry, giving figures from the International labour bureau, respecting the comparative real wages in different countries, as follows:

London..	100
Amsterdam..	87
Berlin..	67
Brussels..	42
Copenhagen..	120
Dublin..	102
Lisbon..	32
Lodz..	45
Madrid..	55
Milan..	48
Ottawa..	153
Paris..	57
Philadelphia..	175
Prague..	49
Riga..	50
Rome..	49
Stockholm..	92
Sydney..	136
Tallinn..	46
Vienna..	44
Warsaw..	41

It is against such competition that the Canadian workman is pitted. I ask you, sir, whether or not the Canadian workman has the right to maintain his high standard of living and education for himself and his family? Have we not the right, by the equalization of conditions through any form of legislation that may be devised, to protect our people in the development of our resources from the low wages of these different countries I have mentioned. That is the reason an effort is being made to equalize these conditions. There are the figures; they

[Mr. Bennett.]

speak for themselves. I shall not at this hour do more than merely refer to them, but the whole article is illuminating as indicating the conditions under which British industry is maintained.

There is another matter to which I wish to direct attention, in connection with the report of the Economic conference. If my learned friend the Minister of Justice had only turned back a little he would have found in that very report a statement relating to a country that desired to become self-contained. I quote from page 28 of the final report of the World Economic conference:

The desire to deal with the problem of excessive industrial capacity has usually led to an attempt to reserve the home market for home production by means of tariff barriers erected with a view to creating an independent national economy capable of producing, under the protection of the tariff wall, an increase of invested wealth and a more satisfactory return for the work of the nation. This effort to attain self-sufficiency cannot hope to succeed unless it is justified by the size, natural resources, economic advantages and geographical situation of a country. There are very few countries in the world which can hope to attain it.

And, sir, Canada is one of them. If my hon. friend had read that the other day, as he should have, he would have ascertained that there is the principle upon which we to the left of the Speaker have been endeavouring to work out this country's economic salvation. It is all right to say that you have reduced the tariff year by year. Ever since 1923 there has been a steady effort to reduce tariffs, so they say, and now they have reached the point where, under the guise of reducing the tariff, they are really increasing it. Let me read these words as to the necessity of tariff stability in the Dominion. Do you recall, sir, that in 1923 to your right sat the right hon. Prime Minister and his Minister of Finance, the Right Hon. W. S. Fielding? These are Mr. Fielding's words:

There is a thought which does not receive as much consideration as I think sometimes it should be given in public discussions, and that is the desirability of something like tariff stability. Business men do not like to be always threatened with changes in the tariff. There is no finality in legislation whether as respects that tariff or as respects anything else. That which parliament can do to-day it can undo to-morrow. Everybody knows that. Everybody must conduct his business in the light of that fact. Nevertheless it is desirable that something like an assurance of tariff stability should be given to business men. Exceptions will occur. Speaking broadly, it is possible to give the country a reasonable assurance of stability of tariff. Such assurances are very desirable, for no business man would care to enter upon enterprises which may be brought into peril by frequent tariff changes.