

so. Let me say that I represent a constituency in central Saskatchewan, one-half rural and one-half urban: Twenty-five thousand people live in the city of Moose Jaw, and twenty-five thousand live outside. When I try to improve conditions in the country I do not have to apologize to my city friends, for they look upon the farmer as their life blood. Before I came down here I made a survey of local conditions, and I will describe what I found. The city of Moose Jaw is sometimes called the "Mill City". I went over to the mill in the first place, and said to the miller: "How are conditions?" He looked up with that smile that never comes off, and answered, "Pretty good." I said, "Don't you want a little protection?" "Oh, no," he replied; "all we want is a fair field and no favour." "But," I persisted, "is there not anything you want?" "Well," he said, "I wish they would build that line from Mawer to Dunblane, and give the wheat and coal a fair chance to flow down to Moose Jaw in its natural channel, and so help the other end of the Canadian National. We have \$200,000 to increase our mill to five thousand barrels a day; it now has a capacity of three thousand; and we will make this investment if that branch line is built." I said, "You are easy." Then I walked over to some of my wholesale friends. Moose Jaw is a distributing centre and has five or six wholesale grocery firms. I went to one of them and inquired of the manager, "How are conditions?" "Well," he said, "pretty fair; the buying power of the people all through the country is decreasing, but we are trying our best to buy in the cheapest markets so as to give them bargains. The great trouble, however, is that sometimes when we get a bargain the anti-dumping clause comes along and spoils it all. Get that dumping clause removed so we can secure something cheaper for our people." I said, "All right." In the city of Moose Jaw we have the headquarters of seven or eight large lumber companies, having from forty to one hundred and twenty distributing branches throughout the three provinces, and I thought some of these people could tell me pretty well what the conditions were. I went to one company and asked the manager, "How do you find conditions? You are getting letters all the while from your distributing branches, and should be able to tell me." He replied, "To tell you the truth, the buying power of the farmer is decreasing all the time". I inquired, "Anything I can do for you?" He answered, "Yes. Lumber is a prime necessity in this country to house our people, and if the government took the sales tax off lumber that would be

a help." I told him, "Likely if the government have not forgotten they will do that, for nobody will object to it and it will be a great help to the people." Moose Jaw is a railway and mill centre; thousands and thousands of people there wear the overalls and carry dinner pails. I go to some of them and ask, "What is your problem?" They reply, "Well, we get fair wages, but with the high cost of living we can hardly keep our families and educate them." Then I go to the salaried people, and I find it is the same thing all the time—the high cost of living. It begins to get on my nerves, and I go over to some of our retail stores. I say to the proprietors, "Here, the trouble with this country is the high cost of living. They tell me you get one-third as much for passing your goods over the counter as the people do who produce them. What have you got to say about it?" They reply, "Well, we cannot help it. Look at the rents we pay. We pay \$400 a month for this store." I said, "I will see about that;" and I go to the landlord. "Why do you charge the storekeepers so much rent that it aggravates the high cost of living?" He answers, "I cannot help it. Look at the taxes I pay." I walk over to the mayor, and say to him, "What do you mean by charging these taxes?" "Well," he retorts, "two-thirds of our taxes are not controllable; we have got to pay interest on our bonded indebtedness; that is the trouble." I begin to think this thing out. I see hon. gentlemen here from Toronto. One of them to-night said, "We have got a magnificent street railway system." Another of the city's representatives said a few days ago, "We have expended so many million dollars to fix up the waterfront, and so much on the agricultural building. What a wonderful city it is!" And it is a magnificent city. But the cities all over Canada are copying the example of Toronto. That is the trouble. Let me quote from a newspaper report which I read the other day. It is as follows:

In sounding a note of economy in a report to the city council, finance commissioner Ross said, "It is not an extravagant statement to say that a sort of financial madness is over the whole land. As private individuals we are living beyond our means, as citizens we have spent without thought and mortgaged the city so heavily that we and our children will groan under the burden."

Now, all the things hon. members have been talking about in this debate do not touch the real problem. I hope I am wrong in the opinion which I am about to express. I hope that five years hence if any hon. member stumbles across to-night's Hansard and reads my remarks he will be able to say, "That man did not know what he was talking about." But I am going to put it to you