

(Mr. Pouliot) was in the form of a criticism of a statement I had made. He objected to our making our comparison with 1932 rather than with the last year the previous government was in power. Does the hon. member for Témiscouata think it fair to take a period when the trade and prices of the world were altogether different from what they are at the present time? If that is so, then we can only come to the conclusion that the present government was responsible for the world depression. The only fair comparison to make of the trade and exports of Canada year by year since the present government came into power or for the period the previous government was in power is to make it with world trade. In making such a comparison I believe we are on very sure ground when we take the report of the League of Nations which shows a great improvement in the trade of Canada during the last few years compared with other countries. The hon. member made one remark when he was first speaking which I thought was an oversight but when he rose again he repeated it so often that I finally concluded he was really convinced that the marketing act gave the power to raise and lower tariffs. This act contains no provisions for the imposition of either interprovincial tariffs or tariffs upon goods coming into the country.

When I spoke before I made the statement that it had never been claimed that the marketing act would find new markets for the products of the primary producers. However, this act can wield a great influence, not so much in getting new markets—when I made that statement I had reference to the changes in tariffs—but in controlling the quality of the products which go into certain markets. For example, I am sure that hon. members from both the east and the west will admit that the steps taken last year by the fruit export board had a very excellent effect in keeping up the quality of apples exported to the United Kingdom. Representatives from this country, including a representative of the fruit growers of Canada, went to the United Kingdom and at the request of the National Farmers' Union of Great Britain discussed whether or not some steps could be taken to prevent the dumping of more or less inferior apples on the markets of Great Britain at a time when their apples were coming on the market. It was realized that if some steps were not taken to prevent the dumping of an inferior product, the government of the United Kingdom might be forced to take action in this connection. The Minister of Agriculture of Nova Scotia, the Hon. Mr. MacDonald, went over to the old country to investigate the matter of trade, and

[Mr. R. Weir.]

he was one of the first and most urgent advocates that something should be done. Something was done under this act, and during the last year the people of the old land were very much impressed with the quality of the apples which were shipped.

There is another point which we hear raised perhaps oftener than anything else. It is stated that the increased tariffs have restricted trade. I think we are all more or less inclined to agree with that. When the former government were in power they talked about lower tariffs but it did not avail them anything because the tariffs of other countries were raised against our products. The psychology of fear was used in explaining the increase in tariffs to the different peoples. They were told of the flood of products which might come into their country. For example, there were our cattle and dairy products going into the United States. The politicians and organizers would tell the producers that there would be such a flow of products that their markets would be completely lost. No matter how earnest the people of different countries may appear to be in their talk of reducing these tariff walls—but only talk—I believe this marketing act provides a means by which we can overcome some of the damage which has been done. This legislation provides a bargaining factor in our dealings with any country. We can agree to ship only certain quantities at certain times of a certain quality. I think we all agree that everything within reason should be done in order to break down tariff walls which hinder trade but hon. gentlemen opposite did nothing but talk in connection with that.

Mr. RALSTON: We established a few figures in trade.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The hon. member comes back to the trade figures. He is taking credit for the prosperity of the world during the times of great prosperity but he gives no consideration to the world conditions which have since resulted and in which Canada has had to share. Further, in connection with finding new markets, if we do get new markets for our agricultural or primary products, if you wish to hold that market it is exactly the same with a country as with an individual; you have to assure the people who undertake to market your product that a supply will be available to them at all times of a certain quality if they go to the expense of changing from one product to another. I will mention one product in that connection, bacon. We know that the old country distributors of bacon had with practically little exception got into the habit of purchasing Danish bacon