

respect to the products of the field, live stock, fruits and the like which constitute the major part of our export trade, these are all commodities which can be reproduced from year to year and which require only the guidance of a department of the government to preserve in ever-increasing amount what to-day is taking place in the way of exportation. Turning from agriculture to the forests, we have in this country an extent of timber area, a quantity of timber unparalleled by that of any other country in the world, excepting possibly Russia and Siberia combined. We have not begun even to estimate to the full extent the timber resources of Canada; but the timber resources, by a careful system of conservation, and reforestation, may be maintained despite the large exportation, and, as my hon. friend knows, the provincial governments which have most to do with the forests have combined with the federal government in providing measures of conservation which will help to preserve the forests to future generations.

We have the largest fisheries in the world and there again the problem is one not so much of restricting exportation as of an effective and successful conservation.

As regards minerals one might almost say that the total potential production of our mineral resources is as yet completely unknown. I wonder what the people of Great Britain would not give to-day if they found it possible to continue the export of coal, the basic raw material from which England has derived such revenues in past years. Great Britain is in her present state of depression largely because she has lost the market she had for one of her essential raw materials. We are in the present happy position of prosperity by reason of the fact that we have been discovering ever wider and wider markets for those products in the production of which we have a natural advantage.

I noticed, by the way, that when my hon. friend was in Nova Scotia in the course of his campaign there in the summer, he did not hold as steadily to his doctrine about not exporting raw materials as he sometimes does. His speeches there seemed to be suited to the locality even more than to the general principle which he has been laying down. He happened to be in a certain community at the moment at which the United States imposed a tax upon gypsum, and my hon. friend protested to the community that the United States were always imposing taxes on commodities going into that country, that they in Nova Scotia were being deprived of their

rightful market and that they ought to protest against that sort of action on the part of a foreign country. Yet this gypsum is just a raw material of the very kind to the exportation of which my hon. friend has been taking strong objection.

Mr. BENNETT: My hon. friend does not have that quite right. I said that we should not continue to trade with a country by sending them sixty-six cents out of every dollar's worth of our purchases, if they declined to buy from us, and I instanced gypsum as the last item of their policy.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I also say that at the same time the government of Nova Scotia which my hon. friend was indirectly assisting or attempting to assist at the time, sent through its Minister of Mines a communication to the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Finance of this government urging very strongly that representations should be made to the United States to withdraw or to lower the duty and so make possible the continued export of the raw material gypsum into that country.

No, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the question of the export of raw materials, one has to take into account the stage of a country's development. Every country goes through certain marked stages of development in its industrial life. A new country naturally begins with the exportation in larger percentage of its raw materials than of its finished goods, but little by little, as these raw materials exported bring back to the country the purchasing power for other commodities produced or manufactured within the country, that purchasing power is used for the development of new or growing industries. And so a domestic industry is built up, not by erecting a Chinese wall around the entire nation to prevent the exportation of any of its products, as would be the outcome of the doctrine of protection if carried to its logical conclusion, but by permitting in the first place a large exportation of raw materials of which the country has a surplus and with the purchasing power which comes from the sale of those materials, developing more and more within the country itself the industries into which those raw materials may enter. If we wish to build up in Canada, as we do, and as we are doing, an increasing manufacturing industry, the most effective way to do it is in the first place to put our people in a position where their money can be invested in industry, and that can be done by selling in as large quantities as possible the products of the country in the producing of which we have a