

1½ billions of dollars of farm products last year; therefore, we must import over twice as much as we produce to feed our population—some exaggeration! But the truth is that we need only a small fraction of many of our farm products for home consumption.

This led the Laurier government in 1911 to make a reciprocity pact with the United States which would have been an immense benefit to the farmers of Canada. If the then government had put it into effect so as to show the benefit of it, instead of taking a referendum of the people, it would have meant millions of dollars each year to the farmers; and in the end it would have been a great boom to the manufacturer, as every additional dollar got by the farmer from the Americans meant an additional dollar of purchasing power from the business concerns of the Dominion. However, the government said that the people should be consulted. What happened? The manufacturers, organized to defeat the reciprocity agreement. It is said that they, with the rest of the Tory party, raised an immense campaign fund. It is said this was the only time in history that there was any money left after a political campaign in Canada, although it is said large sums were paid to the press, vast sums paid the constituencies, and every means used to create a public opinion hostile to that policy. However, all this would have been of no avail, but for a so-called political strategist, said to be Hon. Bob Rogers, who coined the slogan, "No truck or trade with the Yankees." This, coupled with the waving of the old flag, defeated reciprocity and won the election for the Tories, to the everlasting disgrace of the Canadian people.

In passing, I may say that the manufacturers although not injured by this pact but rather helped, were desirous of perpetuating the system of protection so that the money, equivalent to the duty, would continue to flow into their bank accounts as automatically as the rivers flow into the ocean. Since then, seventeen years have passed, and Canada has not been able to secure reciprocity in natural products with the United States, although the Borden government, shortly after it took office, sent a delegation to Washington to try to revive the reciprocity agreement in whole or in part. But they failed in their mission as the Americans could not trust them. This pact they had strenuously opposed a few months before. Their opposition was to win the election, and not for the good of the country.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. member is incorrect. The Borden government sent no delegation to Washington to revive any reciprocity treaty.

Mr. HALL: That is what the leader of the opposition says, but I say differently.

Mr. BENNETT: I simply want to call the hon. member's attention to the fact that the statement is incorrect.

Mr. HALL: You have had your say. This is one more example of the inconsistency and insincerity of the Tory party. Before passing to another division of my speech, I may say that the Conservative party were anxious to have reciprocal trade relations in the natural products with the United States up to the election campaign of 1911. Indeed, Sir John A. Macdonald made several attempts to gain access to the American market for our natural products, but failed. It may have been that the Americans mistrusted the Canadians just as some of the hon. members opposite mistrust the Americans now.

Associated with agriculture, Mr. Speaker, is the question of the tariff, the question of transportation, and the question of our trade relations with other countries. It has been asserted that the question of the tariff is dividing Canada and would divide the Liberal party. It certainly divides the Canadian people into two classes, namely, high and low tariff people, or protective and revenue producing tariff people. The first class is represented by the Tory party and the second class by the Liberals and the Progressives. This is a very general statement. Let us particularize. The interests of the farmer and the interests of the manufacturer are said to be a great point of contention. Let us see how this works out. Canada does not figure largely as a manufacturing country; it is certainly not one of the great manufacturing countries of the world. Why is it not? Do Canadians lack ability in management, in intelligence, in application, in thrift and in industry? Certainly not. Is it not a fact that Canada produces, per capita, the greatest export surplus of food stuffs, which is the very foundation of labour, of any country in the world? Is it not a fact that Canada has an abundance of raw material from the farm, the forest, and the mines? Is it not a fact that Canada has the most magnificent water powers in the world, the ultimate hydro development from which is calculated to be forty million horse power? Is it not a fact that the centres of our population are situated in close proximity to the ocean traffic which carries their products to all parts of the world? Is it not a fact that Canada has transportation facilities, by land and by water, excelled by few countries in the world? Is it not a fact that Canada has a good labour market? Is it not a fact that Canada