

of what had taken place for over a quarter of a century. When we wish to trade with other countries, we must purchase from them; if we wish to sell abroad, we must make purchases abroad; if not, other nations will not buy from us as long as we continue to increase the tariff.

The government, through the medium of its Department of Trade and Commerce, has already begun to demolish this tariff wall. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens), fortunately, was able to conclude a trade treaty with New Zealand, to undo what the government had done the previous year. An Imperial Economic Conference is to be held in July next, it will give us an opportunity of finding markets for our products. We have no markets, and that is the underlying cause of the distress existing in this country, which is rich in natural resources of all kinds, both on land and sea. There are as many fish in the sea to-day, as there were 20, 30 or 50 years ago; the markets alone are lacking. Our fishermen, our young men of Gaspé, were obliged to give up fishing because they could not dispose of their catch. The same may be said of agriculture.

During the last dominion election I had to face a bitter attack on the question of New Zealand butter. Men who were ignorant of the subject or else were badly informed, proclaimed highly that if the treaty, which was then existing, was repealed, Canadian butter would increase in price. It was then sold at 35 cents per pound; it now sells from 15 to 17 cents. The Gaspé potatoes which are not graded, have no market. The hon. Minister of Agriculture for Quebec, informed me, when he last visited Ottawa, that two or three car loads of potatoes from Rimouski had been offered on the Montreal market at 10 cents per bushel, and had not found a purchaser. Last year, not one single lumber camp, in Gaspé, was thrown open, where, usually, all winter thousands of young men find work; the result is that the farmers of the two counties comprised in Gaspé, were unable to sell their products. The barns are still filled with hay and cellars full of potatoes and people are in great distress. I am in receipt of letters from persons who are best able to judge of these facts in that section of the country, asking me to request the government to assist these people who are undergoing a crisis as they never have experienced before owing to the lack of markets to sell their products. Our young people are leaving us, forced by circumstances to abandon the Gaspé peninsula in order to earn a livelihood in other sections

of the country; not only are they to be found in Quebec or Montreal, but large numbers have emigrated to the United States; there is a colony of them in Detroit and many others are to be found in various places of the United States. People were told, at the last election, that a new regime would improve the situation, in a short time; unfortunately the country was deceived, but is now wiser. If we had to-morrow, an election in Quebec or in any part of Canada, the people's verdict would perhaps not be the same.

Mr. CHEVRIER (Translation): Hear, hear!

Mr. MARCIL (Translation): I know as a fact that in the constituency I represent, the people would condemn this administration. However, this is not the time to discuss politics.

I would request the hon. member for Dorchester, who read to us a long list of requests he addressed to the former Minister of Fisheries, to strongly insist with the present minister that he must grant his requests. If the hon. member can be of service to the fishermen of his native province, they will feel very grateful to him and I trust that before long we shall see him at the head of the Department of Fisheries in which he seems greatly interested. He delivered just now a very interesting speech on the situation existing in Europe and elsewhere. All this is very well, but what we need at present, are markets. The saddest part of it all is that, meanwhile, the people have no markets and we must find them some as soon as possible. Instead of devoting any more time to the question of fisheries—let him blame one government or the other, for they are often both at fault—I think that he should set aside this question of jurisdiction and endeavour to use the influence which he certainly has to convince the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) that he must, necessarily, find markets for the products of the farmers and fishermen of Quebec and the other sections of the country.

We have very often heard speeches advocating bonuses to coal, wheat and their transportation. The new trade treaty with New Zealand is almost exclusively to the advantage of British Columbia. The government has made concessions of every description. There are bonuses on Nova Scotia steel, on coal, on the carrying of Western wheat. In a word, all groups who support the present government seem able to exert on the administration an influence which, I am sorry to note by the results secured to date, is not exerted by the Conservative deputation from the province of Quebec.