

subsidized or not, every section in Canada should prosper; the farmers, the industries, the railways, the banks and all should be more prosperous than they have been. Let us hope that capital, labour and brains may together work out this serious problem, which I feel is only temporary. There need be no fear for the future of Canada if good-will is shown in all parts of our Dominion.

Hon. GEORGE GORDON: Honourable members, yesterday in the course of his remarks the right honourable member for Eganville (Right Hon. Mr. Graham) suggested that owing to the tariff structure being so complicated, great study should be given to it before any change of consequence was made. I agree with that in the main, but many items in the tariff are quite simple, and after the promises which the Government gave, and the mandate it obtained, it would be unworthy of us to leave such tariff items any longer in their present position.

My honourable friend from Brandon (Hon. Mr. Forke) intensified my impression, which I have held for a long while, that he believes in absolute free trade.

Hon. Mr. FORKE: When it is practicable.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: When practicable? I subscribe to that policy. I think that if there were any possibility of having free trade amongst the nations it would be a good thing; but as we cannot get it, I believe in what I would call fair trade. Here we are living alongside of one of the greatest nations in the world, and while its tariff has been going up, ours has either been stationary or has been going down, particularly on agricultural products. I do not see how my honourable friend from Brandon can for a moment believe that it is a right and proper thing for us to struggle on as we were doing, with a duty of 40 cents against wheat going into the United States, while on wheat coming into Canada we had a protection of only 12 cents. I suppose my honourable friend already knows that last year, when we had a surplus of wheat, which included what we carried over from the year before, we imported into Canada 3,700,000 bushels of wheat.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: Where from?

Hon. Mr. GORDON: From the United States; and we exported to the United States 33,000 bushels. Now, is that fair? Is that what you call free trade? To my mind, free trade would be secured by a levelling process, bringing our duty on wheat up to the same rate as the United States have imposed on ours.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU: What would the honourable gentleman think of cutting off the duty on both sides?

Hon. Mr. GORDON: It would be all right. As my honourable friend from Brandon knows, Canada imported oats from the United States last year, when we had a large quantity of them, to the value of about \$1,800,000.

Hon. Mr. FORKE: The oat crop was a failure in Canada last year.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: We had oats to spare last year.

Hon. Mr. FORKE: It would have cost a good deal more money to have brought them from Ontario into Western Canada. They were bought in the cheapest market.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: I think we should immediately make tariff adjustments to put our people in a fair position to compete with those of the United States and all other countries. I find that we spent last year approximately \$80,000,000 on the import of goods such as are produced by our farmers and fruit growers. For example, we imported \$14,000,000 worth of corn and \$14,000,000 worth of butter. Why should we not have produced these things in Canada? If we cannot produce all the corn and butter we require for our own use, we should go short of these things. Another thing we imported, although on a comparatively small scale, was hay. Hay is grown in every county in the Dominion; yet we brought in from the United States last year some 5,380 tons, on which we collected duty at the rate of \$2 a ton; but if a Canadian had wished to send a ton of hay to the United States he would have had to pay a duty of \$4 on it. I do not know whether my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Forke) calls that free trade, but I do not call it even fair trade. To my mind, if it were fair trade the duty would be as high here as it is in the United States; if their tariff were \$4 a ton, ours would be \$4 a ton, and if they brought theirs down to \$2 a ton we could do the same.

Hon. Mr. COPP: That would be a countervailing duty.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: Oh, countervailing duties are a joke.

Hon. Mr. GILLIS: What about cut flowers last year?

Hon. Mr. GORDON: I think we imported about \$250,000 worth last year; because we cannot grow flowers in Canada, I suppose. I have in my hand a statement showing in