

*The Budget—Mr. Preston*

Yarns made from wool.. . . .	3,464,459 lbs.
Tweeds.. . . .	4,741,113 yards
Worsted and Serges.. . . .	7,044,753 yards
Women's and children's dress goods.	4,922,192 yards
Flannels, plain.. . . .	1,509,600 yards
Blankets.. . . .	128,873 pairs
Socks and stockings, wool.. . . .	7,897,320 pairs
Socks and stockings, cotton.. . . .	6,429,660 pairs
Socks and stockings, silk.. . . .	364,884 pairs
Yarns made from cotton.. . . .	2,095,428 lbs.
Cotton thread, etc.. . . . .	1,360,245 lbs.
Cotton piece goods dyed.. . . .	22,253,023 yards
Cotton piece goods printed.. . . .	6,238,647 yards
Cotton in grey.. . . . .	9,434,243 yards
White unbleached cotton.. . . .	5,904,495 yards

The above list of course only gives a few examples. The amount of knitted goods coming in is very great but cannot be shown in this way.

The countries from which these goods, manufactured from wool, cotton, silk, flax and hemp, come are:

Great Britain.. . . .	\$65,090,565 worth
United States.. . . .	27,168,120 worth
Other countries.. . . .	20,186,049 worth

The wages paid in Great Britain and in European countries are only from one-half to one-quarter of the wage scale paid in Canada and therefore we cannot compete with these low paid workers unless the government protects our wages by increasing customs duties.

We therefore address this letter direct to you personally to ask that you advise your government of the necessity to raise the customs duties sufficiently at the coming session of parliament to protect Canadian workers.

We are,

Yours sincerely,

The Undersigned Workers in the Canadian  
Textile Mills.]

Some changes have been made in the tariff with respect to agricultural implements, and we have heard a great deal about this matter during the last few weeks. The notes that I have on the agricultural implement industry were prepared before those changes took place. However I shall make my statement to the House, and should I be guilty of any technical blunders I am quite sure hon. gentlemen will excuse me.

1. The implement manufacturer to-day buys his labour at rates 113 per cent higher than they were before the war.

2. He must pay from 100 to 248 per cent more for his raw materials, steel, malleable castings, lumber, cotton duck, and so forth, and the incoming freight charges on these materials are 90 per cent higher than in 1914, while outgoing charges on the finished products are estimated to be 44 to 100 per cent higher than in 1913.

3. Despite these increased costs of production the total increase in the price of farm implements since 1914 is but 80.4 per cent as against an increase of 100 per cent in farm labour.

4. As a direct consequence, few, if any, of the implement manufacturing industries are paying dividends; fourteen of the leading

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companies lost \$9,393,000 in 1921 and \$1,738,000 in 1922.

Yet it is this industry, which represents an investment of some \$80,000,000 in Ontario alone, that this government has marked out for slaughter. We are told by the government's apologists that it is merely carrying out its 1919 platform. If that be so, then how does it come that they have singled out the one industry that enjoyed the least protection? What of the boot and shoe industry? What of the automobile industry? Why are they not touched? The answer is because this is a political, not a scientific or economic budget. To touch boots and shoes would be to lay unholy hands upon some of the constituents of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe). To touch automobiles would be to lay unholy hands upon the political chances of some other of my honourable friends. So these industries are left alone, the "poor masses" for whose sufferings the Prime Minister's heart bleeds so copiously, are let go hang so far as boots and shoes are concerned, while the poor implement industry is butchered to save the skins of this government and to make a Roman holiday for their friends in the West.

What is the fiscal trend of the world to-day? Everywhere, on every continent, the nations are seeking restoration of their economic strength through the agency of tariffs. Practically all of the new nations that were created by the Treaty of Versailles have gone in for protection. France, Germany, Italy and Spain have either heightened or are heightening their tariffs. Even the little Irish Free State has gone in for a policy of protection. And while all this is going on, while free trade is practically dead, and while the United States, the greatest industrial entity that the world has ever seen, continues to increase her tariff barriers, continues to take fiscal measures against Canada, Canada, through this minority government opposite, throws open its markets to the world. Sir, I say that in the modern history of the world there has seldom been greater evidence of incompetency and economic folly. And what is the consequence to this country? The consequence is that Canadian industry is terrified. Those industries that have not been touched feel that they are but out on suspended sentence. Last year the Minister of Finance gave the country a promise of stability. He said that with the United States standing by the Fordney-McCumber tariff it would be madness for this country to further lower its own tariff bars. To-day we see this minority government indulging in that madness, at