

desire for an export embargo on pulpwood is prompted by the desire to have the pulpwood producers delivered over to the manufacturer; all our manufacturer needs to do is to bid a better price for the raw material. And the desire for an export embargo on wheat is prompted by the same selfish longing to have the producer of wheat at the mercy of the Canadian miller. The Canadian miller never asked for this until the farmer formed his own co-operative marketing scheme by which he could better look after his higher grade. The one thing that protectionists need to learn is that the word "wealth" is significant only when our natural resources are in course of use and enjoyment by the people. To hamper your competitor in order to increase your own wealth is a fallacy, because it always restricts the purchasing power of the home consuming public. Our protectionists have fallen into the same error as the working men did when they tried to prevent the introduction of labour-saving machinery. It is all restriction; but then it is the boast always of the conservative that he ever remains the same. A very illuminating address was delivered lately to the National Council of Farmers' Co-operative Marketing Associations at Lee House, Washington, D.C., by a Professor Macey Campbell of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He points out that the discrimination against the agriculturist by the protective system of the United States is undermining the life of the whole nation. I want to read one or two paragraphs from the report of his address:

Dr. Campbell quoted records of the United States census bureau showing the steady increase in the percentage of landless tenant farmers. In 1880 the percentage was 26; in 1900 it had increased to 35 and in 1920 to 38. Seven states, he said, now have reached the 50 per cent mark, while in two states more than 50 per cent of the farmers are landless.

Landlessness by the mortgage route also is steadily increasing. Dr. Campbell asserted, quoting statistics to show that in 1890 28 per cent of the farmers were encumbered by mortgage, that in 1920 over 40 per cent were so encumbered, and that now farm mortgage indebtedness in the United States has reached the tremendous total of seven thousand million dollars. He says:

While mortgage indebtedness has been increasing, the farmers' equity in these mortgaged farms has been decreasing, with the result that while in 1910 it was 72.10 per cent, in 1920 it had dropped to 70.9 per cent and in 1925 to an estimated 60 per cent.

As the farmer loses the ownership of his land the equity held by others increases. With the average interest rate on farm mortgages standing at 6 per cent, and the average income from farm lands at 3 per cent, there seems little hope of paying off the \$7,000,000,000 of farm mortgages. The ownership of mortgaged farm

lands is passing into the hands of persons who live largely in towns and cities.

This leads one to ask, Sir, if at an interest rate of 6 per cent farm land in the United States is going so rapidly out of the hands of those who use it, what must be the condition in this country, particularly in western Canada, where our average rate of interest runs to 8, 9 and 10 per cent, and sometimes over. This has made necessary the cry for cheap money for agricultural purpose, but I predict that unless some of the handicaps are removed from our basic industry, even an agricultural credit scheme will in time also become useless. Let me quote another paragraph from Dr. Campbell's address showing the discrimination against life on the farm. He says:

We who are engaged in education judge of the attractiveness of life in the rural communities as compared with life in the cities by the conditions we find in the homes and the schools. Recently my work brought me into close contact with the homes and schools in the South, in the Dakotas, and in the city of Detroit. I saw barefooted white mothers and children at work in the cotton fields beside the men trying to make cotton enough to carry them through the year. I found a white school operating but two months during the entire year in a bare shack with two windows. The teacher had no preparation above the rural school. Children sixteen years old were in the third grade. They had had no more months of schooling than many children have in the cities by the time they are eight.

Here is a further paragraph from his address:

In reply to my questions concerning conditions in Detroit, I received the answer. "Our big organized industries bring in sufficient profits that we are able to support schools like these for our children." I saw more good, modern homes in Detroit in three city blocks, occupied by the families of working men, than I saw in an eight hundred mile drive among the farm homes in the entire state of South Dakota. The memory of those barefooted women in the cotton fields of the South haunts me still.

To-day by co-operation we are trying to alleviate some of the unsatisfactory conditions we find on our Canadian farms. The hon. member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. Edwards) the other day quoted some information he had received regarding the working of one of our co-operative companies, and he charged that company with exploitation of the farmer, stating that while the duty on a certain farm implement was \$22.80, the company was charging the farmer \$38.30. I am very glad, Sir, to have the opportunity of correcting the entirely wrong impression which the hon. gentleman gave the House. These are the facts. As indicative of the discrimination against those engaged in the basic industry of this country, I want to say that under the rules of our distributing combines