

into sections. While we all know that there are nine provinces in Canada, that we originally came from a number of different sections to form one confederation, at the same time to-day all of us so far as we can must think of this great country as one nation, must think of our people as one family. In other words we must aim at a national understanding, which is injured materially by those from the west who speak against the east or those from the east who speak against the west. With many of the remarks made by the minister in the last few minutes of his speech regarding that feature, I wholly agree.

Wheat being the largest item, producing in round figures, 20 per cent of the value of agricultural products of our dominion, I want to speak of the wheat industry in a general way. While the minister was speaking, he seemed to imply that there are some who feel that nothing should be given to the west. I do not mean that he accused people of taking that attitude, but he said that, from the speeches of some, one might draw that conclusion. I agree. But I think most broad-minded Canadians—and that includes a large proportion of the Canadian people in all sections—think of Canada as a whole. And most people realize what I have said on another occasion in this house and what other hon. members have said repeatedly, that the first duty of a public man in Canada is to try to hold this country together as one nation. I do not enjoy listening at any time to anyone from the west who attacks the east, or anyone from the east who attacks the west, or anyone from one section of eastern Canada who attacks another section of eastern Canada, or any attacks whatsoever by one section upon another.

The wheat-growing section of Canada is particularly important because of the vast wealth of its contribution to our exports, and the vast wealth which over the years since the early 1880's has been contributed generally to the Canadian economy. I looked up the figures the other day, and I find that while our total exports for 1936-37 were over \$1,000,000,000, wheat and wheat flour accounted for \$245,000,000 of that sum, or 23 per cent. In the Turgeon report—and I have no doubt the statement is correct—the commissioner stated that in the past fifteen years the exports of wheat from Canada formed 28.7 per cent of our exports, or an average of \$279,000,000 annually; a huge amount of wealth going out from this country to pay our external debts and pay for the goods which we must import. It has been the greatest export in practically every year since wheat took the limelight in this country.

Our exports consist of three great commodities in general, of which wheat is the greatest, the others being gold and the tourist industry. They are the three large items and certainly in most years wheat is the largest of all. We looked upon the wealth which the wheat industry in Canada produced before the war as a permanent thing. Coming as I do from the head of the lakes, I well remember that we considered Canada the bread-basket of the world. Prior to about 1929 or 1930 no one thought we would ever grow any grain in the west that we would not be able to sell at reasonable prices. It was only about ten years ago, around 1929, that the situation was changed, when according to the commissioner the wheat was held back. That was when we began to get into difficulties. I am not blaming it on those who held back the wheat, but at any rate the holding back of our wheat coincided with, and, indeed, resulted in the beginning of our troubles in connection with the wheat business.

I want to point out that if we are to lose the export of that vast amount of wheat, amounting to an average of \$279,000,000 over a period of fifteen years, we must replace it in some other way if we are to continue our services outside the country and pay our external debts. Since shortly after the war, the countries of Europe have interfered with the export of our wheat. Production increased in Europe, but what was more important was the determination of countries such as Germany, Italy and perhaps to a certain extent France to make themselves self-sufficient so that they would not have to import foodstuffs in case of another war and the high tariffs they imposed against our wheat completely demoralized the wheat business of this country. Back in 1929 and 1930 Italy imposed a tariff of \$1.07 a bushel against our wheat, Germany a tariff of \$1.62 and France a tariff of about 85 cents. Since those times the exports of Canadian wheat have been contracting. According to figures appearing on page 121 of the report of the Turgeon commission, total imports of all importing countries, in five-year periods, have averaged as follows:

| Average of five years | Millions of bushels |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1909-14.. | 643.2 |
| 1922-27.. | 740.2 |
| 1927-32.. | 780.7 |
| 1932-37.. | 543.6 |

I believe total world imports have remained at approximately 550 million bushels up to the present time. A little further on the commissioner states:

It will be seen that average yearly continental imports of the past five years (1932-37) are 203.1 million bushels below those of 1927-32