

The last few years we have witnessed a very gratifying progress in the dairy industry in Canada, especially in the prairie provinces where the establishment of agricultural industries other than wheat growing is a generally recognized necessity. In 1925 the dairy industry returned the largest revenue in its history. Dairy cattle made strong prices at public sales, and the prices for butter and cheese were excellent. The increased output of dairy products has been most marked as regards creamery butter, the quantity of which for all Canada has grown from 152,501,900 pounds in 1920 to 278,074,849 pounds in 1924, an increase of about 80 per cent. Factory cheese has remained more nearly stationary, the production having increased during the four years 1920 to 1924 by only 506,674 pounds or from 149,201,856 pounds to 149,707,530 pounds. In the three prairie provinces the production of creamery butter has increased from 34,877,815 pounds in 1920 to 48,515,672 pounds in 1924, an increase of 13,637,857 pounds, or 38 per cent.

Another indication of progress is the increase in the exports of butter. Thus for the calendar year ended December 31, 1921, exports of butter from Canada amounted to 9,132,926 pounds, whilst in 1924 they were 22,343,939 pounds. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 1925, they were 24,501,981 pounds as against 13,648,968 pounds in 1924. And exports of butter are now being made successfully from the prairie provinces to the United Kingdom, the United States, the West Indies and to oriental and other countries. That western Canada is building up a reputation for excellence of quality in dairy products is shown by the fact that in the colonial section of the London Dairy Show last October, Alberta butter gained the first prize and gold medal. At this show Canada won four out of the six prizes offered for Empire-wide competition and western Canada won four out of the six. There are very gratifying indications of progress in dairying, which possesses great possibilities of future development in western Canada.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that there is no need for this treaty under these conditions. Let us develop the dairy industry in western Canada and in eastern Canada as well. Let us stand true to that industry and let us see to it that proper legislation is brought down and put through in the interest of that great industry. As a citizen of this Dominion—and I am proud to be one—I shall be only too glad to support any measure, let it be for the expenditure of money or otherwise, that will have for its aim the development not

[Mr. J. E. Armstrong.]

only of the dairy industry but of the whole of the agricultural industry of this Dominion.

Mr. W. K. ESLING (West Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, in addition to the Australian treaty I want to point to a few other matters which tend to retard the farming, fruit growing, dairying and poultry industries of Canada. But before proceeding, I should like to add my felicitations to those offered by others, knowing that you keenly appreciate having been the unanimous choice of the members of this House for a position of such great honour.

This discussion, it seems to me, has brought out several differences of opinions as to just what was the issue in the recent campaign. I should like to preface a few remarks with the very emphatic statement that in West Kootenay the issue was protection, and the people there voiced, with no uncertainty, their absolute lack of confidence in the King government. They were not in accord with the mixed variety of protection suggested by the Prime Minister in the different parts of Canada in which he happened to be speaking. But they were in accord with the National Policy of protection as declared for by the leader of the Conservative party (Mr. Meighen)—protection for industry, for the wage earners, for the consumer and for the farmer. They declared emphatically for protection, the basic principle of which was the creation of Canadian payrolls, and protection which reserves to the Canadian farmer the benefits of his home market.

The campaign which returned a Conservative candidate from West Kootenay, British Columbia, was in striking contrast to the utterances and expressed sentiments of the Prime Minister in his opening speech at Richmond Hill when he stressed the statement that he did not want to be hampered, or harassed, or embarrassed, or dictated to, or dominated by a Progressive group, and that unless he had a good working majority of Liberals he would resign. We have not yet had any indications of a resignation. We also had a recent speech of the Prime Minister in Vancouver, just on the eve of the campaign when he said:

The great problems facing Canada cannot be solved by a government without a strong following.

That was no later than last September. So the situation is this, that we have a national problem for the protection of the farmer and this government is not in a position to solve it. The Prime Minister's utterances at Richmond Hill were made on the 5th day of September, and they cannot be accepted as having been made with any degree of sincerity