

agitation carried on in connection with it. I believe I should place on file along with the letters I have read at least three others.

On March 5, 1932, a letter was addressed to the then Minister of Agriculture from Kitchener, on the stationery of Dumarts Limited, in these words:

Re. request for tariff on vegetable oils with British preference.

I now have pleasure in enclosing the endorsation from the United Farmers of Ontario. It has been difficult to have these people see this matter in the proper light. I expect several other endorsations in the course of a few days.

Respectfully submitted,

Yours very truly,

R. D. Morrison,
President.

The letter I have just read was attached to the following, which comes from the farmers of Ontario, and clearly explains their position. Dated, February 29, 1932, and addressed to the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa, on the stationery of the United Farmers of Ontario, the letter reads:

Dear sir:

Great Britain has been generous in the measure of preference which she has extended to Canada in her recently announced tariff proposals. This action gives Canada distinct advantage in the European market. With a preferred position on the British market Canada is assured of the best possible outlet for her large exportable surplus of staple farm products. So long as she, in turn is willing to buy British goods in exchange should we not do all we can to strengthen our position upon that market? And should we not also demonstrate our appreciation of her action in granting Canada this preference. Since we can do both by extending a greater measure of preference to British imports surely it is in our best interests to do so. Not only would such action result in mutual commercial advantage to Canada and the mother land, but it would, at the same time, tend toward a better understanding and a strengthening of the bonds of empire.

The unanimous viewpoint of the various provincial united farmer movements in regard to British preference was set out in the national policy issued by the C.C.A. in 1918.

I believe the Minister of Finance subscribed to it at that time, and as a member of a farmer organization out west, I believe I subscribed to it. It is in these words:

"By reducing the customs duty on goods imported from Great Britain to one-half the rates charged under the general tariff and that further gradual uniform reduction be made in the remaining tariff on British imports that will ensure complete free trade between Great Britain and Canada in five years."

We learn that Canada is importing annually a very large volume of vegetable oils from the United States which could be, we are informed, just as well secured from England.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

You will notice they are not objecting to the importation of all the oils. They say they are being secured from the United States, and they might just as well be secured from England.

The United Farmers of Ontario has repeatedly expressed itself as favouring an increase of preference on those products and goods which can advantageously be secured from Great Britain. Accordingly we would request the government to give careful consideration to the possibility of placing vegetable oils on the preference list.

Yours very truly,

Robt. J. Scott, President.
J. J. Morrison, Secretary.

The other letter on file, which refers to both of those, is the only other one I shall read. I find this letter, dated March 8, 1932:

R. D. Morrison, Esq.,
President
Dumarts Limited,
Kitchener, Ont.

Dear Mr. Morrison:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 2, enclosing brief for a duty on vegetable oils, and your telegram for the 4th instant reading as follows:

"Have mailed you brief for tariff on vegetable oils with the British preference with endorsations from twenty packers. Stop. Trust you will give this every attention as is very vital to the Canadian farmers. Stop"

That is the end of the telegram. The letter continues:

Your letter of the 5th instant enclosing endorsations from the United Farmers of Ontario has just come to hand. I am forwarding copies of these letters to my colleague, the Minister of Finance, and I wish to thank you for the trouble you have taken in getting the endorsations.

Yours very truly,

R. Weir.

All I wish to say is that when the budget was first introduced, and when the right hon. leader of the opposition was replying, the Prime Minister made a remark across the floor of the house. The remark was to the effect that if it had not been for the nature of the agreement made in 1932 it might have been possible to have made a different agreement at this time. Every hon. member will recall that the reply he received from the leader of the opposition, who then had the floor was, "Yes, if it had not been a fox it might have been a cat." Well, I do not know that it was an answer to the suggestion, because after all, the suggestion made by the Prime Minister contained the essence of the position in which we find ourselves in connection with this whole matter.

Probably that can best be indicated by reading to the house the first sentence of each paragraph of the address delivered by the then