

some figures that seemed to deny his own arguments. He stated that some years ago when the prices of butter were high Canadians were consuming 35 pounds per capita.

Mr. MALCOLM: My hon. friend will admit that during that period there was great prosperity and forty per cent more industrial employment than exists to-day.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Certainly. At the same time his argument is destroyed in part at least by the figures he quotes when he points out that now when prices are low we are consuming only 21 pounds per capita.

Mr. MALCOLM: It is because we are not consuming butter that prices are low. My hon. friend has the cart before the horse.

Mr. CAMPBELL: That may be so.

Mr. MALCOLM: That is it.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Supposing we get prosperous times within a few months, the first thing that will happen will be an increase in the cost of living. Will we be complaining at prices going up? For certainly that is one of the first things that will happen. Prices are low to-day because there is depression. If we can increase the buying power of the farmers there is no doubt in the world that that buying power will immediately be reflected in increased purchases on their part. My hon. friend will be able to sell more furniture, and all the factories of Canada will be able to sell more goods. I think every dollar of that money will find its way back to the industries, and I cannot for the life of me see that it will adversely affect the country as a whole. The figures contained in the bulletin of the Economic Annalist show that the farmer has suffered to a very much greater extent than has the industrialist. It shows that the prices of farm products have dropped much more than the prices of manufactured goods. This policy has not been brought forward as yet; the minister has only suggested it, but I am in favour of trying it or anything else that may assist the farmer in his difficulties. I am not going to sit on the fence, as some hon. members seems to be doing, and say we must do nothing and make no effort at all to control conditions. I think the troubles we are facing to-day are partly due to the fact that the government has not done enough to try to meet those conditions. Certainly I say it is no bonus to the buyer of butter in Great Britain to have a small tax put on the butter at the point of production and used to take the surplus off the market in order to raise the

(Mr. Campbell.)

price level at home. I think no one can reasonably use an argument of the kind. It seems to me this is at least worth attempting, and the very argument brought forward by my hon. friend with respect to the wheat board and the marketing of grain applies here. What we want is some centralized body that can direct and control the products of the country at a time such as this. After all, that is the main object of a marketing board, and I hope the minister will not allow himself to be influenced by the arguments which have been brought forward by members of the opposition.

Mr. VALLANCE: Might I point out to my hon. friend that there was no tax levied on all the wheat produced in Canada in order to market the exportable surplus. I might point out also that the moment you start to subsidize anything, whether it is butter, grain, live stock or something else, immediately you increase the production and your problem becomes more acute.

As I remember it, the other night the minister merely threw out the suggestion that some time a marketing board might be considered. I speak now to those members who come from the province of Saskatchewan; I know they have had communications from various cooperative bodies in that province suggesting a marketing board, but I think they will agree that the wool growers, the live stock pools and the various cooperative associations that have seen fit to write asking for their cooperation and assistance, represented only those who were vitally interested in the production of those commodities. If you attempt to set up a marketing board to-day, with officials who have not their own money invested in the industry, I think you will find a considerable difference in the marketing of surplus products by subsidies. As I pointed out the other night, when Australia adopted the Patterson scheme for the export of their surplus butter, Canada met that surplus with the dumping duty, and if we adopt this plan we will only aggravate the people in those countries where we propose to dump our surplus goods. So before any legislation along this line is brought in I would advise the minister to get in touch not with those who are promoting this idea but with those who are producing the commodities that to-day find their prices governed by the small surpluses which are exported.

In talking with some of these individuals the point has been brought up that if you set up a marketing board you then compel those