

done, it would affect all classes. I believe in tax reduction that benefits all classes, and I urge upon the government to take into consideration the advisability of removing the sales tax from lumber and other building materials.

What Canada needs is a stable condition. With stable conditions, millions of dollars are ready to be invested in this country. During the last few years we have lost great opportunities, because capital is always nervous and will seek investment where stable conditions prevail. In the last two years we have had a government that has been talking about reduction of tariff, free trade, and during this budget debate we had the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart) telling us that this budget sounds the death knell of protection and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) talking free trade. How can we expect capital to be invested in the industries where such a situation prevails? This action is certainly driving capital out of Canada.

There are many other subjects which I should like to speak on, but at this late hour I will not detain the House. I want to say, in closing, that, in my opinion, this budget will go down in history as the most iniquitous piece of legislation that has ever been forced upon an intelligent electorate.

Mr. EDWARD N. HOPKINS (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, I have been delighted with this debate, not particularly with the arguments, but with the candour of the speakers. If there ever was a time in the history of Canada when we should have plain speaking, it is to-day, and I am going to try for a little to discuss the problems of Canada in a very plain way. I am naturally going to commence near home in the Canadian West, which is a new country. When the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), who, every hon. gentlemen regrets, is not in his place to-night, was making his maiden speech in the province of Nova Scotia, that great land to the West was a hunting ground for the Red man and a pasturage for the buffalo. No territory on this continent was ever developed with such rapidity as the Canadian West, and no other country ever will be in the future because it is the last great West. In the early days the farmers went into that country to solve a problem. They thought that problem was: Can we produce grain successfully west of the Great Lakes? After they had solved that problem, they found out that it was only the tail end of the problem; that they had yet to grapple with the real trouble and that is: Can we get a remunerative price for our product after we have

[Mr. Thompson.]

produced it? We are well aware of the fact that we have to produce the grain, ship it across the whole continent and across 3,000 miles of water, land it on the hearthstone of the English farmer as cheaply as he can produce it and also compete with those not so remote from the Atlantic seaboard. In 1923, we produced in Saskatchewan, just in one of the provinces of the three, as follows:

Spring wheat.. . . .	252,622,000 bushels	
Oats.. . . .	218,075,000 "	
Barley.. . . .	19,278,200 "	
Rye.. . . .	8,582,000 "	
Peas.. . . .	55,000 "	
Beans.. . . .	22,000 "	
Mixed grains.. . . .	944,000 "	
Flaxseed.. . . .	5,493,800 "	
Potatoes.. . . .	4,370,000 cwt.	
Turnips, mangolds, etc.. . . .	585,000 "	
Hay and Clover.. . . .	425,100 tons	
Alfalfa.. . . .	16,000 "	
Fodder corn.. . . .	304,800 "	
Livestock—	1923	Value
Horses.. . . .	1,137,301	\$59,931,000
Milch cows.. . . .	403,813	15,645,000
Other cattle.. . . .	1,131,274	24,133,000
Sheep.. . . .	137,240	874,000
Swine.. . . .	679,867	6,893,000
Total.. . . .		\$107,476,000*

Let me give the values received:

Field crops.. . . .	\$248,778,000
Farm animals.. . . .	11,912,000
Wool.. . . .	142,000
Dairy products.. . . .	19,366,000
Fruits and vegetables.. . . .	2,461,000
Poultry and eggs.. . . .	8,670,000
Fur farming.. . . .	7,000
Clover and grass seed.. . . .	103,000
Total agric. revenue.. . . .	\$291,439,000

That looks as if they were doing a little mixed farming. These are just a few of the figures, but the tragedy is this: We produce them without a profit and that cannot continue. The problem of the West to-day is to get remunerative prices for our products after we have produced them. What are we going to do about it? There are just two things we can do: We have got to raise the price of products; we have got to lower the price of the materials that enter into the production of those products. We are trying to raise the selling price of our products by co-operative marketing. I am very glad to say that the wheat pool is likely to be a success, and we have great hopes from it. The reductions in the tariff will to a certain extent also help us to produce cheaper, but those reductions are not enough. The problem of the farmer is—to get a remunerative price for his products. Something will have to be done to this end or he cannot continue.

We have been told that some of us in the West believe in class legislation. That is not