

The Yukon has produced hundreds of millions of dollars in gold and silver, and will proceed to increase that output. As a business proposition the Yukon is a good thing for Canada in this way. We have up there nothing but mineral resources and sufficient timber to carry on our mining and build houses. We have to buy everything else from other parts of Canada. We have the mineral, but you have to feed us and clothe us. In return, we have the gold and silver which we can dig up to pay for our food and supplies. All our flour, bacon, sugar and everything else in the food line, our clothing, our boots and shoes, our mining equipment, our machinery and tools have to come from other parts of Canada. These figures are impressive. The Yukon has imported and used over 300,000 tons of Canadian-made goods, and paid for them, \$100,000,000 cash. We have to have your goods, and you have to have our cash. That is a home market worth having and worth keeping. Over a thousand tons of goods went into that new silver mining camp last year. They will all be used up by spring, and then we will have to get more from the manufacturers and merchants of Canada. In addition to that 300,000 tons of Canadian goods taken in there, probably a greater quantity of foreign goods was purchased, for the American west coast cities are very active in following up that trade, an example that might very well be followed by our own people. You can see at a glance what a customs revenue that importation means.

The Yukon is not a tradition or a thing of the past, it is not a played out or worked out mining camp. It was hard hit by the war, but it is coming back. It has a community of wonderful people, face to face with nature, developing the great mineral resources of the country, and their success of necessity redounds and adds to the general prosperity of Canada.

TREATY WITH ITALY

On motion of Hon. W. S. Fielding (Minister of Finance), the debate was suspended and the order for Motions called to permit of the following message from His Excellency the Governor General being presented:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a copy of a convention respecting commercial relations between Italy and Canada, entered into at London the 4th day of January, 1923, between His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas and His Majesty the King of Italy.

On motion of Mr. Fielding, the House reverted to the Order of the Day.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, it is not my desire to review generally the Speech from the Throne or the debate which has arisen on the Address in reply thereto. Much that has been said during the debate might, I think, properly be said at a later stage in connection with the budget. However, we must deal with some of these questions now.

Let me say that with the eloquent tributes that were paid by the three leaders to the memory of our departed comrades; with the good words of welcome offered to the new members; with the cordial congratulations offered to the member for Colchester (Mr. Putnam) and the member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Rhéaume) in regard to the moving and seconding of the Address, and last, but not least, with the tributes paid to the sterling Scottish character of our friend, the member for Brandon (Mr. Forke)—with all these things I would desire to associate myself.

I wish now to proceed to the subjects which I think, call for special mention on my part. First, I want to invite the attention of the House to the remarks of my right hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) in relation to the tariff. My right hon. friend had a good deal to say about averages. Averages are often useful, but sometimes they are misleading, and I am inclined to think that in his search for averages my right hon. friend allowed himself to be misled and unconsciously helped to mislead the House so far as the impression has been conveyed that there had been no material reduction of customs duties. My right hon. friend says that the government collected \$88,000,000 of customs tax on an importation of \$506,000,000 as against a collection of \$78,000,000 on an importation of \$502,000,000 the year before. Then with some other remarks he proceeds to say:

A tariff that averaged 15½ per cent up to the end of 1921 for that fiscal year, now averages . . . when the sales tax is put on at the boundary, 17.5 per cent over the whole scale.

As my right hon. friend puts it, it would almost seem that he was including the sales tax in the first year but not including it in the second. However, I think perhaps he said a little more than he intended, for I find the figures he gives with regard to customs duty, apart from sales tax, work out the increase to 17.5 to which he has referred. But my hon. friend forgot to mention several things which are necessary to a proper under-