

inherited by us from our predecessors, we owed a million dollars a day to the republic to the south? At the same time, every day but Sunday we were buying from them a million dollar's worth of goods more than we were selling to them. Just a month before we gave the electors an opportunity to express their opinions, the Hawley-Smoot tariff came down that would have shut out, in normal times, each day three quarters of a million dollars' worth more of our products. Is there an hon. member who has the courage to say that in spite of that we should have inaugurated low tariff policies for the benefit of the dominion?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. ROWE: Some say yes and some say no. I believe this lopsided development which was carried on from 1920 to 1929 contributed in no small measure to the crisis through which we are now passing. I refer to agriculture, not because I am a farmer, but because I believe if prosperity comes in this dominion it must develop through agricultural prosperity. There is an old adage in that good book—and I advise my hon. friends opposite to read it oftener—that tells us that it is "to the fruits of the earth and the flocks of the field we must all turn for substance." We must turn to these in our day of adversity. What happened with respect to our progress from 1920 to 1929? Improved machinery and fertile lands have brought about the production of more wheat with less labour, but let us take the export of agriculture in mixed farming. In 1920 we sold to the old land \$77,000,000 of meats alone, while in 1929 we imported 41,000,000 pounds of meat to feed our own people. Through a low tariff policy, the cheap meat producing countries were able to export to Canada these products, to say nothing of other farm commodities.

The present Prime Minister, realizing that it was only through the maintenance, development and restoration of agricultural prosperity that we could secure prosperity for all, made a brilliant effort in 1930 in spite of the fact that other markets were shut to us, as everyone will admit. Hon. members opposite may smile, but I ask them: Where would they have sold these products? In June, 1930, the Hawley-Smoot tariff shut us out of the United States markets. In the same year the Prime Minister made one of the most brilliant attempts to secure an imperial conference agreement. It is true that he failed in 1930, but the British acceptance of the same proposals in 1932 was a clear-cut vindication of the Prime Minister's judgment, and time alone

will record this achievement as an outstanding feature in imperial development. Is there an hon. member who would say that the British market does not mean anything to this country, a market that consumes 65 per cent of all the exportable mixed farming production of the world, that had been buying 76 per cent of its supplies from foreign countries and only 26 per cent of it from empire countries? It is the only free market left and the only market that buys more foodstuffs now than it did before the war. Therefore I consider that in that market and in our home market lies the only hope for agriculture in the Dominion of Canada. I know there are those who will say: No, we shall drift on at the mercy of the different elements throughout the world; we were the fine weather birds; we got along fine in world prosperity; we will make prosperity by improved world prices, by favourable world conditions. It is remarkable that almost always in the days of adversity of this dominion, the people have turned to the party which now sits to your right, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. ROWE: I thank hon. members because they agree. If you study the history of this country, you will find that our people have usually turned to the Conservative party to bring them through the days of adversity. In these difficult days the Canadian people have again turned to this party, and the present government is doing everything in its power, independent of the political consequences, to clean up the mess that was left to them by the Liberal party. It is of fundamental importance at this time that we should encourage the development of our overseas market. While I am a farmer, I have still every confidence in the national protective policy of the Conservative party. As a farmer I realize that there is no other market that is as important for our farm products as the home market, and there is no development more necessary than its development through the finer processing of our products from farm, forest and factory. When we consider the great possibilities that we have overseas at the present time, I want to impress upon the government the necessity of developing that market still further.

I heartily support the agricultural stabilization fund which has been brought down in this budget. It is almost needless, indeed, for me to say that I am in favour of it because last year I proposed something simi-