

Although he was asked three times to explain "the death knell of protection" he failed to do so and contented himself with the statement that he had already explained it.

There is one feature in the budget proposals which will be received with considerable pleasure in the country, and that is the suggested increased duty on slack coal. Nobody can suggest for one moment that that is tariff for revenue. It is absolutely tariff for protection; and one cannot help wondering what has induced the government to move from a tariff-for-revenue policy towards a policy of pronounced protection. I cannot help thinking that the government, faced with an early election, has seen fit to balance up the probabilities of support to be received from the Maritime provinces against the support which it might probably lose in the west by adopting a purely protective suggestion. I think, too, that the government, in considering the circumstances which face it to-day, is not at all sorry to find that the rift in the Progressive lute has at last become audible, and for that reason has decided that there is more to gain in the east than it will lose in the west. So far as this is a genuine attempt to assist a Canadian industry I am wholly for it. My objection to it, however, is that it is merely fiddling with the question. It is doing a little piece to help one industry and leaving others untouched; there is no bold policy for the assistance of Canadian industries in the gesture. In the southern part of the constituency of Yale, in the Similkameen division, there are considerable colliery interests. Those colliery people are not in quite the happy state the hon. member for West Kootenay (Mr. Humphrey) has described the mining interests of his constituency to be. They are faced with very considerable difficulties. They review the situation very frequently. In order to explain their position I want to read a resolution which the Princeton Board of Trade has recently passed. I take it from the Princeton Star of April 2. This is the view that the Princeton colliery interests entertain of the situation:

Whereas the present consumption of coal in Canada is about 38,000,000 tons annually,

And whereas about 54 per cent of this amount is imported from the United States at a cost to the people of Canada annually of about \$125,000,000,

And whereas coal equal in quality and in almost inexhaustible quantities exists in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in the East and Alberta and British Columbia in the west,

And whereas for example a certain class of coal that could readily be furnished by British Columbia mines, enters Vancouver, B.C., from Bellingham in the State of Washington, U.S.A., to the extent of from 3 to 4,000 tons per month duty free,

[Mr. Stirling.]

And whereas all coal from British Columbia passing over a three-quarter inch screen, when entering the State of Washington is required to pay a duty to the United States of 53 cents per ton,

And whereas the bulk of the coal imported from the United States into Canada is consigned to the central districts of Canada, remote from the eastern and western coal fields,

And whereas a substantial duty on United States coal coupled with a subsidized railway freight service from our coal fields, would assist the coal mining industry, and make the use of Canadian coal in the central districts a possibility, giving employment to a very large number of our settlers in actual mining operations alone, and assisting in keeping our coal mines in operation 12 months of the year instead of a few as is generally the case at present,

Therefore be it resolved that the federal government be urged to at once adopt an active national fuel policy to include the levying of a substantial duty on all classes of United States coal and the reduction and adjustment of freight charges on Canadian coal to overcome its geographic handicap.

That illustrates the view which the colliery interests in Yale take of the present situation in the coal industry.

Coal is not the only industry in Canada which would surely be the better for assistance in development. I take it that all of those in this House who so frequently refer to a desirable policy which will enable Canadian industries to supply Canadian needs, will be in favour of such assistance to Canadian industries that they may have a reasonable opportunity of filling Canadian needs. Why should the poultrymen not supply every egg that is required in Canada and then have a considerable quantity for export purposes? In that regard I want to quote a sentence or two from the Summerland Review of March 19. There are many poultry interests throughout the Okanagan valley, the Similkameen valley and Grand Forks district, and this voices the interest of the poultry men:

Poultry farmers who have been interviewed by the poultry husbandry department of the University of British Columbia declare vehemently that unless some measures are taken by the Dominion government to prevent the influx of cheap Chinese and American eggs of the lower grades into Canada, disaster threatens a large number of men who have their capital and experience tied up in the poultry industry in British Columbia.\*\*\*

Recent considerable importations of Chinese and American eggs into Canada disrupted the eastern Canadian market for the British Columbia men in the industry, it is claimed.

While the slump this year came one month later than in 1924, the situation is now more critical, it is asserted, because of the prevailing high feed prices, and is only a manifestation of the general situation existing in Canada since the United States imposed a duty of eight cents a dozen on all eggs going into the country, while the United States eggs enter Canada for three cents a dozen.\*\*\*

The argument is advanced by some at Ottawa that Canadian poultry men do not produce enough eggs to supply the demand in this country. It is pointed out by Prof. E. A. Lloyd, of the poultry husbandry de-