

Missisquoi, so it is through the whole of the eastern townships. I think it is safe to say that in the eastern townships there are 3,000 farms abandoned because they cannot make them pay. Why? Simply because of legislation passed in 1925 allowing Australia and New Zealand to ship their products into this country under a duty of one cent a pound.

The western farmers complain that they are pretty hard hit. I agree with them, and I extend my hearty sympathy to them. I would certainly do anything in my power to assist them, but in the west they do not know what hard times are. Eastern Canadian dairy farmers since 1925 have been losing all they had accumulated in a lifetime. They are down and out. The people in the west have been suffering for a year.

Mr. DONNELLY: Has the hon. member ever been there?

Mr. PICKEL: I have. Previously the westerners got good prices; they were doing well; but we in the eastern townships have been suffering for seven years, and we are pretty hard hit. The wheat situation is very serious. The people in the east are sympathetic and they are quite willing to do anything that can be done to remedy conditions in the west. I cannot say what should be done, but I am ready to support any measures for the purpose of alleviating the conditions of the western farmer.

When we speak of agriculture in this house, the eastern dairy farmer never enters the mind of hon. members. It is the grain growers of the west who are meant, and this has been so for a long time. About the only information the majority of the members have of the condition of the eastern farmer is what is obtained from the milkman who, from the excessive price he is charging for his milk, spreads the propaganda that the farmer is robbing him. He does not at the same time tell the consumer that while the farmer is getting one dollar, the milkman is getting three dollars. I ask hon. members to consider seriously the position of the eastern dairy farmer. During the last six years, since 1925, the experimental and demonstration farms of this country have shown us that it costs forty cents to produce a pound of butter with bran at \$30 a ton and middlings at \$38 a ton; but with bran at \$40 a ton and middlings at \$50 a ton, which we had to pay for four or five of those years, the cost of production was over fifty cents a pound, and the farmers in the dairy section, by remaining in the business, lost ten cents on every pound of butter they produced. Our farmers would have been better off if they had closed up their farms in 1925 and waited—

An hon. MEMBER: For a change in government?

Mr. PICKEL: —for a change in government.

A great deal has been said about the tariff and about the hardship that the tariff works. During the special session or last September the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. Malcolm), speaking of the increased duties that were then proposed, cited the fact that the rubber business was doing well. In order not to prolong the debate I did not at that time ask him to tell the house why it was doing well. In 1878 we did not manufacture rubbers in this country, and from 1878 to 1885 or 1886 I could save my return fare by going twenty miles to a little town across the line to buy two pair of rubbers. To-day, Mr. Speaker, we can buy rubbers that are even a little bit better made in Canada by Canadian workmen at as cheap a price as they sell for across the line. That is what protection has done for the rubber industry, and it is what protection will do for any industry. Industries must have protection, not only manufacturing industries but the great industry of agriculture also. Agriculture must be protected. The people of the west raise a great deal more farm produce than we can consume in this country. If the production of the farmers of the west was limited to the consumption of this country, would they not be crying for a tariff against Russia?

I wish to deal for a few moments with the dairy industry in Canada. Representing a dairying constituency, I am intensely interested in the dairy business, and I would ask that every consideration be given to the eastern dairy farmer. I think that he can be helped. To-day we are not producing as much butter as we consume. We have in cold storage in Montreal about four million pounds of New Zealand butter and about three million dozen of foreign eggs. They are being kept in cold storage as a lever to keep the price down, and when the production of butter commences in this country in the spring, it will be bought up at a cheap price and be put into cold storage, so that the same thing may be done again next winter. In the year 1924 we exported twenty-four million pounds of butter, graded No. 1, the best butter in the world. For the last two years, however, we have exported practically no butter, and there is no grading at all. The consequence is that we have lost the art of butter making in Canada. It has gone from us. The Australian trade treaty made it necessary for us to find a market for our dairy produce outside Canada. New Zealand captured our own market