

\$10,000 or \$15,000 in addition to the price of the farm in order to take proper care of their stock? By this Treaty you will open wide the door and bring us into competition with those people, when our farmers are working day in and day out in order to make a living, and having a difficult job to do that. I know where-of I speak. There is no pleasure or profit in farming to-day. Our farmers are struggling, and many have not been able to keep going. With the foreign markets as they are now, the home market is the real market, after all. But we are saying to the farmers of Canada: "Thou shalt prosper by having the home market opened up to the cheapest producing nation in the world, who will drive you from the market of your own land." By this policy you will drive the farmers off their land. This is no imaginary statement: it is an absolute reality to-day. And yet we have chattered over this Treaty for two days.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Will the honourable member tell me if the farmers and the different Boards of Agriculture in the country have protested against this Treaty, and against that competition which they fear so much?

Hon. Mr. POPE: I have made objections to this Treaty for the very reason that nobody in the country knows anything about it, and we do not know very much ourselves. We want three days in which to study it. The man in the country has had no time at all, and I say you are taking an unfair advantage of him; you are putting both hands under in order to throw him; you do not even give him a fair backhold to wrestle in this great contest that is before us. I say we are taking great risks. We talk of this country being settled with honest, moral people of good character, but they are not allowed to sell their neighbour what they produce. Yet the man from Australia, from New Zealand, from Africa, from anywhere, can send his produce in here.

Why does the Government do this thing in the face of what has been going on in Canada for the last two or three years? Half a million people have left us. They did not leave because they wanted to, but because they had to. Every factory that closes, every one that goes out of business in the great centres, gives a rap at the possibility of agriculture. Every farmer in our country knows that the home market is his real market, and every time you close the door in any of the great centres you injure the farmer.

Hon. Mr. POPE.

I do not wish to criticize the pulp and paper people, but they are wiping out a very valuable asset, and very few of them are doing anything to replace it. They are cutting down the primeval forest that was left by our grandfathers, and very few are reforesting. Every time we ship away 100,000 cords of pulpwood, or tons of news paper, we are shipping away valuable assets from this country. On the contrary, if you give agriculture an opportunity, and give farmers a chance of a livelihood, you have manure piles behind the barns, so that instead of taking away from the fertility of the soil you are giving everything back in return.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Are the farmers content with the home market for their products?

Hon. Mr. POPE: Absolutely. In the days gone by they were misled by political intrigue, and were told that protection was only for the big interests, for the capitalists. I did not intend to go into that matter. Sir Wilfrid Laurier came into power in 1896, at a time of prosperity, and that remained until we had a panic in 1907. The world had 14 or 15 years of wonderful prosperity. Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not lower the tariff. If he did anything to it at all he raised it a little, and a development took place. But now from one end of the country to the other the farmers have been feeling the pinch, because when taxes are paid the farmer must pay his portion, whether in the form of customs duties or excise, whether directly or indirectly. Then we had a great war, and things went down again. This Government came in, not in an era of prosperity, but two or three years after the war, and everybody knows what happens to any part of the world after a war, unless extraordinary effort* is put forward. France put forward an effort with a tariff; England has restrictions; Germany and Belgium and other countries have them, and are doing everything to protect themselves. We had a tariff for the farmers in 1878, and it was not disturbed until 1889, the last year of Sir John Macdonald, and he raised the tariff on meat from 1 cent to 3 cents a pound. These are the only two things that were done for the farmer, both by Sir John Macdonald, the first in 1878, and the last in 1889.

I would like to put on Hansard the exact duties that this Treaty carries with it, so far as agriculture is concerned. I think the list should be made available in order that anyone taking the trouble to look at Hansard will find the position in which we are placed.