

have we had a deputation coming clear through from the Pacific coast to the Great lakes and on to Ottawa asking this government to help in the unemployment situation. That happened this very year, and I stood for over two hours with that delegation until I was driven out by the heat. It was a delegation representing every town from Vancouver and Victoria down through to Fort William and Port Arthur. They came here asking for help, and all they got from this government was an effort on the part of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) to convince them that there was no unemployment at all. He ended up by talking in a general way about unemployment insurance, and then a day or two afterwards in this house assured one of the Winnipeg members that unemployment insurance was a matter for the provinces to take up, that this government had no intention of doing it, but that if the provinces wanted to take it up, this government would not mind cooperating. I repeat, never before have there been so many labour groups urging any government to do something to relieve the unemployment situation. The government was asked to call a conference. The great United States, with all its prosperity—I deny that the United States has been hit anything like as hard as the minister tries to make out—called a conference of its leading business men, and only a couple of Sundays ago I listened to a minister telling of the advantages that had accrued through the calling of that conference. This government would not call a conference to satisfy anybody. Right in my own city of Fort William, for the first time in our history, we had parades of the unemployed, and one of the first places in this country to ask for assistance in the matter of unemployment was the home town of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Heenan). While the Minister of Labour was telling this country there was no unemployment, the town of Kenora, through its member in the legislature at Toronto, was asking for assistance to relieve the unemployment situation in that town.

We hear a great deal about unemployment in the United States. But what about the million and a half people in free trade England who are on the dole at the present time, and the number is constantly increasing? So far as the United States is concerned, it is true that conditions there have not been so good since the stock market crash last fall, but that is true of every other country. Certainly conditions in the United States are not so bad that they are talking of coming down to free trade. As the hon. member for

New Westminster pointed out, the people there are asking for a greater amount of protection. I do not notice that they are cutting down the protection their producers have against Canadian products. Within the last few days they have raised the duties against the products of Canada which they import to the amount of \$75,000,000 annually. That is in addition to the \$100,000,000 of imports which the Fordney tariff shut out from Canada in 1922. What does this government propose to do to see that we get a fair deal with the United States? The only thing done is that the government says we must not do anything to provoke Washington, and we go on allowing our agricultural products of all kinds to be barred out of the United States. We do nothing in return but sit quiet and boast of the immense amount of unemployment there is in that great country.

I have heard a great many arguments in this house to-day and yesterday to the effect that tariffs increase the cost of living. I represent largely a workingman's constituency —, not entirely, because it comprises in part a farming section, but three-quarters of it is a workingman's constituency; and for thirteen years I have been taking in this house the same attitude on protection that I am taking now. I believe in a Canadian policy. I believe in the national policy properly brought up to date. In those thirteen years in which I have consistently taken that attitude I have never had the working people in my constituency complain that such a policy would increase the cost of living. I do not believe that any man or any woman in this country cares about the cost of living so long as he or she can get work and wages to pay that cost of living. That is the important part.

The government has claimed that we on this side of the house have been playing politics in connection with the butter industry, in connection with the fruit industry, and in connection with the egg industry. We have been told that it was either playing politics or just a joke. This government, as a matter of fact, makes no attempt to look after any interest in this country. Its whole policy is a policy of permitting this country to be swamped by the surplus products of other countries. The only possible way in which this country can get on its feet is to produce within its own borders some of that \$900,000,000 worth of goods that we purchase from the United States in a year. We bought last year from the United States \$338,000,000 worth of iron and steel products. Two thirds of those products could have been produced here.