

of goods between nations. It is not necessary for me to say that such a scheme as his would be entirely out of place and impossible of realization in this day of mass production. What has happened? High tariff walls have been erected in every country of the world with the exception of Canada. Some people in Canada claim that this country should be given credit for the fact that our tariff walls have been lowered instead of being made higher. Competition, rather than Cobden's theory of co-operation, is the order of the day. Great Britain turns out to-day practically the same kinds of articles as are turned out by France, Germany and other countries. Ship-building, the manufacture of steel and cotton, and other industries are flourishing as greatly in those foreign countries as they are in Great Britain. At one time Great Britain built ships and manufactured goods, and then loaded the ships with those goods and sent them out to be sold in foreign lands. Even the ships were sold. This gave employment to the people of Great Britain. Then Britain would lend money to the countries who had bought her ships and products, in order that they might reimburse her for the money she had expended in manufacture and trade. But a great change has come over the world since the days of Cobden.

I admit that Canada has not followed a full free trade policy, and perhaps this has been to the benefit of Canada. That it is a fact is not due to the people in this country who can see only one side of the question and who think that an era of prosperity can be ushered in when our doors are opened to goods that can be manufactured more cheaply elsewhere by underpaid labour and under less favourable living conditions than prevail in this country.

Honourable gentlemen, let us try out the plan that has now been suggested to us, which will give us some measure of adequate protection. The Government has submitted proposals which it thinks are in the best interest of Canada. I think you will agree with me that if we have ever had a courageous Government we have one at the present time.

I feel sure that the Government has it in mind to protect not only the industries, but also the farmers, who are the backbone of this country. The East is affected by any depression that may take place in the West. The interests of our farmers in the eastern provinces are akin to those of our western farmers. I would suggest to our Government that some form of subsidy might be granted to British-

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owned steamers carrying grain from our shores to Great Britain or elsewhere, and that those same steamers could be economically and profitably employed in carrying British anthracite coal to the Dominion of Canada.

An Hon. SENATOR: Steam coal?

Hon. Mr. WEBSTER: Yes. That coal would not come into conflict with our Canadian mines. I am sure that Lord Melchett and other great British leaders would be only too glad to meet our Ministers at the Imperial Conference in London, and I am satisfied that some such plan can be worked out to the advantage of Canada.

I am pleased to know that our labouring people have not been forgotten and that provision is made for them in the Bills that we are passing. I know that work and not charity will be the Government's object. I am not afraid of the spending of \$20,000,000 for the purpose intended in the Bill now before us. Indeed, I should be quite in favour of that amount being increased if an increase were deemed necessary in order to stop unemployment in this country and to maintain Canada's industrial and farming position in the world.

We do not want in this country a repetition of the problem of unemployment as it prevails in England, where to-day there are about 2,000,000 idle people—the largest number since 1922; and if the present policies in England are continued, the number may reach 2,500,000. Idleness has cost Great Britain the enormous sum of over \$3,000,000,000, including the cost of administering relief. More than 200,000 miners are to-day out of jobs in the mining district of Great Britain, and they will be without employment for the rest of their lives unless some other work is found for them. It is not necessary here to enter into a discussion of the causes for these conditions, or to discuss further the amount that is being paid in Great Britain to-day for doles to the unemployed. May I say that taxes are going up, and must continue to go up by reason of these conditions in the homeland. I know from personal experience and from the experience of companies with which I am associated that money is being sent from Great Britain and elsewhere, because investors are not satisfied with present conditions in the Old Country, nor do they think the future offers any promise.

Idleness will always breed more idleness. Some years ago it was suggested that we subsidize work rather than idleness, and that is what I understand our Government in Canada purposes doing. With work, whether