

Mr. CLARK: In 1913, in my city, and in nearly every city and town and village of Canada, we all had full pockets, and we had 400,000 immigrants in that year. While I am on that point, let me suggest this to my hon. friends to my left: Supposing we had a free flow of immigrants to this country, supposing that every inch of space in these immigrant ships was taken up, that we had say 350,000 immigrants a year; that would provide a return cargo from the Mother Country which is not being provided to-day. The shipping men complain that there is no return cargo. Well, there is an opportunity to provide a return cargo, and if it is provided—

Mr. MARTELL: If my hon. friend will permit me to interrupt I should like to ask him what the bringing in of immigrants has to do with this question? My hon. friend is a lawyer, he knows the rule, *res inter alios acta*, as regards evidence.

Mr. CLARK: My hon. friend possibly was not in the House when I took this matter up.

Mr. MARTELL: It has nothing to do with the question.

Mr. CLARK: I was reading from a covenant in the agreement with respect to the bringing in of immigrants.

Mr. MARTELL: I do not speak merely for the sake of interrupting, but I point out to my hon. friend that we are dealing with freight, not with immigrants.

Mr. CLARK: I am dealing now with the covenant contained in this agreement with Sir William Petersen that he will carry immigrants from Great Britain or the continent of Europe at rates to be fixed by the government, and so on. In addition to the argument that the free movement of emigrants into this country would assist all of us in securing cheaper rates on cargo outbound I suggest this: That if we stopped the present tremendous flow of manufactured goods from the United States, we could then negotiate proper and advantageous trade treaties with the other British dominions and with the Mother Country herself, and thus provide infinitely larger return cargoes which would react to our benefit when we were shipping outwards. It is only by filling these ships both ways that we can hope to secure a really equitable distribution not only of cargo but of freight rates.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Does the hon. gentleman realize that a reduction in the duty on British goods coming into Canada would help to fill these ships with return cargoes, and would he be in favour of that policy?

Mr. CLARK: Absolutely no, and I will tell my hon. friend why: My whole argument is to stimulate Canadian industry first. Secondly, having stimulated Canadian industry and having made it possible for emigrants to flow into this country our next duty would be to stimulate trade with the Mother Country, and with the other British dominions as well, by diverting trade from the United States. I will show my hon. friend the great necessity for that. In 1923 our total imports amounted to \$802,579,244. Out of that total the United States sent us \$540,989,738, while the Mother Country only sent us \$141,330,443. Now, what I say is let us divert some of that trade with the United States to the Mother Country. But first of all let us stimulate Canadian industry.

Mr. EVANS: What means would the hon. gentleman use as a stimulus?

Mr. CLARK: I mean just what I said. We should have a tariff on a parity with that of the United States, wherever possible, first of all in order to stimulate Canadian industry, in order to provide employment for our idle workers, and in order to stop the exodus of 200,000 of our best young men annually to the United States. When we do that we will attract other people to our country.

Mr. MacLEAN (Prince): How do you account for the unemployment situation in the United States? According to the official figures last year was the worst year they had in that respect, and there were in the city of Brooklyn alone over 300,000 persons out of employment.

Mr. CLARK: I am not discussing conditions in the United States just now but I will tell you this: In the year of the presidential election there is always depression in the country to the south. If my hon. friend will examine the figures issued by the United States Steel Corporation, or any other great corporation throughout the American union, he will find there has been a tremendous increase in the orders placed with industrial concerns, and there is no longer much unemployment in the United States.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer very briefly to the Preston report. I am going to take several statements from that report, chosen at random, for the purpose of showing that that report might just as well be thrown into the waste paper basket and the country saved further expense in giving consideration to the recommendations made therein. On page 3 Mr. Preston says:

I was in a position to get in touch with all the interests concerned, without unnecessary delay.