

*The Budget—Mr. Young (Weyburn)*

of commodities coming into the country and to raise the prices of them, confining their use to a narrower circle of people, is a step in the opposite direction.

I know that is not the idea of prosperity held by hon. gentlemen opposite. Their idea of prosperity is a smaller volume of commodities sold at high prices, and at a handsome profit, to a restricted circle of consumers. Perhaps I can best illustrate it this way. I go into the restaurant in this building and I see hon. gentlemen who, although they may not be wealthy, are at least sufficiently well off to be able to buy anything they want to eat without regard to the cost. I see them eating bread and butter on the fifty-fifty basis—half bread and half butter. It does not matter how dear the butter is, they eat it. I see them eating tomatoes at 30 and 40 cents a pound and strawberries at 50, 60 and 75 cents a box. They are not eating celery but the hearts of celery. They are willing to pay a good price for these things; they are willing to pay an extra few cents a pound for butter or an extra few cents a bunch for their vegetables. And they call that prosperity. But that is only one side of the picture. From there I go into the cottage of the working man. There I find the mother eating bread without butter in order that the little butter which there is may be spread on the bread of the children. She tells me that she has been downtown and has looked into the shop windows which she sees filled with the best fruits and vegetables. But they are beyond her reach. However, she says that perhaps later in the season they may be cheap enough for her to buy some. That is the Conservative idea of prosperity—plenty of everything at high prices for the few who can afford it, and scarcity among the masses who cannot.

Mr. MANION: And plenty of work for the people to buy it with.

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): We will see about the work later on.

Mr. GEARY: You say either too much or too little.

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): I will say the rest presently. We on this side have a different idea. We believe that prosperity is measured by the manner in which people live.

Mr. QUINN: Faith without works is dead.

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): If my hon. friends would do some good work on the other side it would help somewhat. As I say, we believe that prosperity consists in a higher  
[Mr. E. J. Young.]

standard of living for the people. We are not alarmed at a few million pounds of butter coming in from New Zealand because we know it is going into consumption; we know from the returns of the department that the people of this country are living better than ever before; we know that in spite of the fact that a few million pounds of butter are coming in from New Zealand, the people of Canada to-day are consuming dairy products to a greater degree than ever before. In fact, they are consuming products to such a degree that if the increased consumption were reduced to terms of butter it would amount to no less than 70,000,000 pounds of butter annually within the last few years. How can the people of Canada afford to consume so much more of dairy products than they were a short time ago? The answer is obvious; it is because they are more prosperous. I am not dismayed when I hear these stories of carloads upon carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables coming into this country, because I know every one of these articles is going into consumption; someone is eating them, and a larger importation simply means that a wider and ever wider circle of people are enjoying the fruits of the earth. That is prosperity, and that is being extended under the policy of this government.

All this talk about the importation of fruit and vegetables breaking the home market and ruining our own producers is arrant nonsense. The argument they put up is this: they do not care how much comes in during the winter time when our fruits are out of season, but when our Canadian growers are ready to put their fruits on the market they say the importation of a few carloads breaks that market. I think most of us remember when transportation conditions were such that we could not transport these articles any distance, and what was then the condition of the local grower? The fluctuations in price were far greater than they are to-day. In those days the consumer had nothing at all in the way of fresh fruits and vegetables until our own crop was ripe; then we had such quantities that they were sold very cheaply and it was not very long before they were all gone. To-day, with modern transportation facilities and with the tariff as far out of the way as we have been able to get it, we find an ever-widening circle of people who are able to enjoy the fruits of the earth.

Now I would like to discuss for a moment the fruit situation in British Columbia because from that quarter comes the greatest agitation for prohibitive duty on fruits and vegetables. The fruit growers of British Columbia went to their provincial govern-