

*Supply—Trade and Commerce*

**Mr. Howe:** What figures?

**Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** The figures he gave you. You have not questioned one yet.

**Mr. Howe:** He said we had lost the market for beef.

**Mr. Charlton:** We had lost it until this last deal.

**Mr. Howe:** Why? We find that in New Zealand beef for Great Britain is put on board ship at fourteen cents per pound, whereas in Canada it is put on board ship under the present floor prices at forty-eight cents per pound. Why have we lost the British market for beef? It is because our farmers do not wish to raise beef for market at fourteen cents per pound delivered at seaboard. What about pork? Why have we lost the market for pork?

**Mr. Charlton:** We have lost it, have we?

**Mr. Howe:** I did not say that. Why are we not shipping? Because Great Britain can buy it in New Zealand at twenty cents; they can buy it on the continent at twenty cents, but our farmers think that they should get twenty-six cents a pound. Under the present floor prices our farmers have been getting at least that for some time. If my hon. friend wants to put the Canadian farmer, which I assume he does, in competition with farmers on the continent, in Australia and New Zealand for that market on a price basis—it must be on a price basis—then—

**Mr. Charlton:** Mr. Chairman—

**Mr. Howe:** I did not interrupt my hon. friend and I do not want him to interrupt me. My hon. friend speaks of the market for oats. Canada is not normally a large exporter of oats. Oats is a domestic crop. In a year of short crop it is all consumed in Canada. In a year of surplus crop we have the highest priced market in the world at our door. It has always been there, probably always will be there, and is a market that can take whatever surplus we have, be it large or small. The same is true of barley. We have a market at our door for barley. Sometimes we have a substantial quantity of barley for export and sometimes we have very little for export.

My hon. friend has spoken about the market for cheese. We had a very big market for cheese in Great Britain throughout the war. We practically supplied all the cheese that Great Britain used during the war. We had contracts up until last year for considerably more cheese than we could supply. Some years we did not supply 30 per cent of the cheese for which we had a contract

[Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood).]

with Great Britain. I do not know whether Great Britain considers Canada as a very reliable source of supply. We had been supplying it at a competitive price, but last year the Ontario producers went over to England and made a contract for a small quantity at a very high price, the highest price I think that Great Britain has ever paid for cheese. When this year came along the British said that they did not want any more cheese from North America. They had built up sources of supply elsewhere.

My hon. friend says that we have lost the British market for lumber. It is my impression that in the last year Great Britain has been buying all the lumber from Canada that Canada could supply. I know that a year ago they would have taken considerably more lumber than Canada then could offer.

**Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** You have come to something at last that we have not lost. That is good.

**Mr. Howe:** Does my hon. friend think we have really lost the British market for anything? That is your story. You will stick to it and you will tell it on every platform, but it is totally untrue.

**Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** Oh, no. No one said that.

**Mr. Howe:** We have sold more to Britain in the last twelve months than we have ever sold in the history of this country, war years or no war years.

**Mr. Charlton:** On dollar value?

**Mr. Howe:** On dollar value, tonnage or anything else.

**Mr. Charlton:** Not on volume.

**Mr. Howe:** On volume as well. Produce your figures on volume. You have not produced any so far. You have kept to a few fringe products that we sometimes sell to the United Kingdom, and always in small quantities except in the war years or immediate post-war years when markets were maladjusted. I could go over the list product by product. I would be glad to take any product that anyone would like to discuss, but the fact of the matter is that Canada has found markets somewhere for everything it could produce. We speak of canned tomatoes, and it seems we have lost the British market. We had a shortage of canned tomatoes no later than last autumn and throughout the past winter.

The hon. member says we have lost the British market for canned milk. I do not know where the market has come from but I know we have been able to sell every tin of canned or powdered milk this country has