

gaged in agriculture, if I did not thank His Excellency for the reference to the evidences of this government's continued interest in that great basic industry. I believe that I speak not only for the farmers of that part of Ontario but for those who are engaged in this great industry from one end of Canada to the other, when I say that they deeply appreciate what the government has endeavoured to do to assist agriculture in these very difficult years. The farmers in the drought area of Saskatchewan, and to a lesser extent those in Alberta and Manitoba, must fully appreciate the assistance which the government has extended to them in their hour of greatest need. I am sure they are also fully conscious at the present time of the intention of the government to extend its services and the assistance it has given to agriculture through the extension of the credit system, by a survey of the whole debt structure of the country, and by amendments to the different acts which have been passed. I have no doubt that those who have benefited, thousands in western Canada and hundreds in the eastern provinces and in old Ontario, fully appreciate what has been done under The Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, which is the first attempt that any government has made to give the farmer a second chance in order that he may relieve himself of his burden of debt.

I am satisfied, further, that those who are interested in the expansion of agriculture, not only individually but from the general standpoint of the community, will greatly appreciate the amendments to the Farm Loan Act of last year as well as the proposals contained in the speech from the throne at the present time. And probably I speak on behalf of a wider range of the population when I express appreciation of this interest in agriculture, especially in view of the benefits derived from the imperial trade agreements, and the assurance which the speech from the throne gives us of an expansion of empire markets. I do not think that there are any members in this house, even those who sit to the left of the Speaker, who to-day would vigorously condemn the imperial trade agreements. I am satisfied that after they have learned, as every other citizen of Canada has learned, that we have developed through the imperial trade agreements a freer trade arrangement within one-quarter of the whole world—than at any other time in the last quarter of a century—they will join with the farmers of these old provinces in the east, the mixed farmer, the live stock producer, the bacon hog producer, in appreciation of the benefits that have been derived from the imperial trade agree-

[Mr. Rowe.]

ments. I am gratified to know that the government is still desirous of expanding these markets by treaties with other countries and by consolidation of the arrangement with the mother country, with a promise to renew the agreements. This is not confined only to the live stock breeders of eastern Canada; I know that the apple producers of Nova Scotia as well as those of other parts of Canada realize what it means to them to have the advantage of \$1.25 per barrel in the British market. I know that the wheat producers of the three western provinces, notwithstanding that in the drought area some of these districts have not been producing as abundantly in the past, appreciate the preference of 6 cents a bushel in the British market. There are of course some who will smile at this, but may I recall for their benefit the reason why the farmer so deeply appreciates these advantages.

I did not intend to refer to this matter, but I feel that there has been a misapprehension throughout the dominion and possibly a misunderstanding even in this house. Many people have believed and have endeavoured to have others believe that the high tariff reforms of the present government, put into operation in 1930 had something to do with the closing of markets overseas; and many have sought to convey to the public the impression that the imperial trade agreements had also something to do with the closing of those markets. It is needless for me to remind the house, however, that this is further from the fact than anything could be; it is the reverse of the fact, because the tariff reforms that were found necessary in 1930, and the imperial trade agreements which were inaugurated in 1932, were the consequence of markets having been already closed to the farmers of Canada. Between the year 1922 and the year 1930 practically every great market of the world had been closed to the products of our farmers. Take Czechoslovakia for instance; wheat had been entering free and a tariff of \$1 a bushel was put on, before this government came in. The tariff in Germany was raised to 98 cents, it was raised in France from 12 cents to 85 cents, and in Italy it was raised to 73 cents. In Japan the tariff against our bacon was raised from $\frac{1}{2}$ cent to 5 cents per pound. The tariff against wheat entering China and Japan was raised to 40 cents a bushel. There was not a solitary market left to Canadian agricultural products in 1930 save the United Kingdom.

That is why the farmers throughout Canada appreciate the advantages of the imperial trade agreements. The only market that was left