

Mr. CLANCY. They are for all Canada, not for any local market. The only way to arrive at a fair conclusion is to take the average export prices, which I am doing. I have not entered into the trick of selecting a place where the prices might be low or high at the moment.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Where do you take the export prices from?

Mr. CLANCY. My hon friend will get them in the Trade and Navigation Report. These are the average prices that the farmers of Canada receive for all these classes of goods exported to foreign countries.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Beans are \$1.50 a bushel now.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman and his friends are on trial not for a month or two, but for the last three years, during which they declare the farmers have been better off and have been getting better prices; and I am able to point out that with the exception of wheat and flour, and that only for one year, for the three years preceding the advent of hon. gentlemen to power the farmers got better prices for every article except two, while for the whole eighteen years of Conservative rule, during which the farmers were said to be ground down under a vicious fiscal policy, they got a higher price for every article on the list than they have got during the last three years.

Mr. CAMPBELL. How do you account for the general prosperity among the farmers?

Mr. CLANCY. I will account for it first by saying that the hon. gentleman and his friends had nothing to do with it. There was an expansion in the country which the Liberal party and leaders, with all their evil genius, could not prevent—an expansion which marks the world from one end to the other. The hon. gentleman could not locate it in Canada alone, but he repeated what was said by every hon. gentlemen on that side of the House, that the Liberal party do not claim it all, but they claim a large share of it. I will ask the hon. gentleman to tell me what part of it they bore a share in, and I will sit down to let him tell me. The only part they contributed to was where they betrayed their promises to the people. Where they declared they would carry out a certain policy and did not—that is their contribution to the prosperity of this country. It is not what hon. gentlemen opposite did, but what they did not dare do, that accounts for the prosperity of this country. Let me call your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the prices that are ruling under the regime of these hon. gentlemen, and I will prove to you beyond doubt that the years of low prices for the farmers are those in which the Liberal party have held office.

Mr. CLANCY.

Mr. McCARTHY. That is the time prosperity seems to have reigned supreme.

Mr. CLANCY. My hon. friend declares that prosperity reigns supreme when the prices are low. That is his idea of prosperity. No doubt when the farmer tells him that he has got less for his barley, the hon. gentleman will reply: Yes, but this is a year of great prosperity. If the farmer replies, I am getting less for my pease than before, the hon. gentleman will retort: That makes no difference, this is a prosperous year. He will declare, with all the energy and zeal of a man who believes he is right, that when the farmer is getting less for what he sells and paying more for what he buys, he is still more prosperous than ever he was before. I am prepared to prove that the regime of the Liberal party is the worst that the farmer has ever seen, as regards prices compared with the eighteen years in which the Conservatives were in power. That is a broad statement to make, but it is backed by the facts. The lowest prices paid for horses in eighteen years were paid in 1899. The lowest prices for cattle were paid in 1899, and for sheep in 1897.

Mr. COWAN. Do you think that to compare the prices of 1899 with the prices of cattle prior to 1896 is a fair comparison?

Mr. CLANCY. Why not? My hon. friend suggests that that is not a fair argument. I am very sorry that the hon. Minister whom my hon. friend worships, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), is not here, because that hon. minister could repeat to my hon. friend his boast that by his policy, in a few weeks after he acquired office, he removed the quarantine, and all our calves went over to the other side, and we got very little for them, and that was a great boon to the farmers of this country. But my hon. friend declares it is not fair to make an argument of that kind. The lowest year for beef was in 1897, and for pork in 1899. The lowest year for wool in eighteen years, was in 1899, and for barley in 1897. The following were the lowest years out of eighteen in prices for the following articles:

Beans, 1898.
Oats, 1897.
Pease, 1898.
Rye, 1897.
Flour, 1897.
Apples, 1897.
Hay, 1899.

I think I have made it perfectly clear that in the last eighteen or twenty years, there were none in which the prices of farm products were so low as during those in which hon. gentlemen opposite have held office.

What, then, are the facts as regards the prices which our farmers have to pay for what they consume? It would be interesting to learn whether there have been any counterbalancing influences to compensate