

I find that notwithstanding the embargo the amount of bituminous coal imported into this country last year was \$49,899,099, as against the year before \$37,387,285.—I am sure the people of Nova Scotia will hope that this class of embargo will not be continued too long—and as against the year before of \$48,631,095, when the hon. member promised he would move a resolution in order to make it more difficult to import bituminous coal.

As regards cottons, importations have increased in two years from \$46,877,000 to \$70,399,000 last year. This, I find, is of considerable interest to many in our country. I find it is of considerable interest to many who, under conditions of to-day, are compelled to close their plants, and many, who, under conditions of to-day, are compelled to sell their homes and to seek in the United States labour denied them here.

Let me refer to a few further features. Our imports of farm implements—and this may have a special interest this session—rose from \$7,732,000 the year before—the last year, indeed, before the effect of the hon. gentlemen's legislation came fully into view—to \$11,893,646, or an increase in one year of about 55 per cent. If indications in the Speech from the Throne are correct, this, forsooth, is to be cured by making the importation of farm implements easier still.

Other features are interesting. Imports of rolling mill products, which amounted to \$28,600,000 in 1921, increased to \$50,800,000 in 1923. It will be interesting to have a calculation of how many artisans of Canada have been exiled from our country because of those importations.

As regards farm products, however, it is true that our grain crop has vastly increased, that our grain production has been gratifying in the extreme. I am quite aware that this condition is not universal, because there are sections of the West particularly in Manitoba which have suffered. Nevertheless, if we take Canada as a whole, a tremendous increase in our grain production has been vouchsafed by Providence. But for those products of the farm that are in the nature of manufactures themselves, largely manufactured on the farm, instead of an increase, there is a constant diminution. For example—and this I call to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell); I did not observe any mention of it in any of those speeches he made during his three or four months sojourn in western Canada this year—our butter exportations went down in one year from \$8,015,000 to \$4,900,000 last year. Our cheese

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exportations have gone down from \$27,086,000 in 1921 to \$23,600,000 this year, and cheese is one of the largest of the farm products of our country. Our egg exportations have declined from \$5,444,000 to \$2,900,000. These are some of the products of the farm that mainly count. These are the products of the farm the trend and current of which reveal whether or not a proper policy is being pursued: One does not judge the efficiency of government policy by the quality of the weather, by the warmth of the sun, by prevalence or absence of rust, by the visitations of hail; one judges the effects of a government policy by its reflection in trade returns which witness and give proof of the multiplying occupations of the people in their own country. However you put this government to the test, especially in those fields which it has invaded, where it has tried its prentice hand at legislation, in every case you find results that are disastrous or approaching disaster.

I referred a moment ago to the increased exportations of grain, and I stated that almost 100,000,000 bushels—or to be exact, 96,000,000 bushels—more had been grown for export last year than in the year 1921. At the same time, I find—and I do not attribute this, except in part, to the government itself, because now I am referring to those so-called evidences of prosperity as disclosed in trade returns—I find that wheat in 1923 sold at \$1.06 a bushel at the shore. This was the average obtained by the Canadian exporter over the year 1923. The average obtained by the Canadian exporter in 1921 was \$1.46 for every bushel. This shows a drop to the exporter from \$1.46 to \$1.06, or approximately 25 per cent. But this does not tell the whole story. While the price of farm products has been falling, the cost of transport, inclusive of lake transport and the cost of handling, instead of falling has actually increased and to-day the result is this, that the farmer is securing himself much less than the 25 per cent reduction would account for. It is undoubtedly true that for the whole product of the West for 1923 as compared with the product of the West for 1921, the farmer actually obtained only about 70 per cent of the amount that he obtained per bushel in 1921. And, be it remembered, the year 1921 was the year when hon. gentlemen went abroad through the land with flaming swords telling the farmers how they were oppressed by an autocratic government; how the middleman was bleeding them; how they were not getting for their grain the price they deserved; and how, at the same time, because of government policy, they were being charged excessive prices for the goods which they purchased.