

I was just thinking about the wrecking of industries which followed in the trail of that reduction. That thought ran through my mind when the hon. member for Kent, New Brunswick (Mr. Doucet) rose the other day and told us that the ten per cent reduction in the duty on nitrates, phosphate and potash had not only curtailed the manufacture of these products in Canada and put out of business firms who were manufacturing the products but that it had resulted in an increase in the price, and he gave some figures to show it. I will give some figures to the House to make my record complete in this connection. The average wholesale prices of nitrates, phosphates and potash were as follows:

March 17, 1924:

4-8-4, \$40.70; 2-8-10, \$38.80; 2-10-2, \$34; acid phosphate, 16 per cent, \$19; sulph. of N.H. 3 (21 per cent), \$68.

March 19, 1925:

\$42.77, \$2.07 increase—5 per cent; \$41.46, \$2.66 increase—6.8 per cent; \$37.65, \$3.65 increase—17 per cent; \$25, \$6 increase—31 per cent; \$80, \$12 increase—17.6 per cent.

These figures appear in a pamphlet issued by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) over his signature, and they show an increase of \$2.07 to \$12 or an increase of five per cent to 31 per cent in the cost between March 1924 and March 1925, after the government had found it good business as they say to take the ten per cent off these goods coming into the country. The market price for nitrates and phosphates on the north American continent is made in Baltimore. The quotation for nitrates in Baltimore a year ago to-day was \$3.50 per unit figured in the terms of ammonia and ten cents per unit figured in the terms of phosphate of lime. The cost to the Canadian farmer has increased by 5 per cent. The market in Baltimore to-day has receded to \$3.25 per unit of ammonia found in the ton, and it has stayed at ten cents per unit of phosphate of lime in the same ton. I do not know whether hon. members get the point or not. This means that Canadian industry in this line has simply gone out of business. We are no longer manufacturing all of our consumption of nitrates and phosphates here. The manufacturers of those commodities have gone out of business, and those at headquarters south of the line, realizing this, have raised the price to the Canadian farmer to-day to where it is above what it was prior to this legislation being placed on the statute books of Canada.

If that were the end of the story, I would be satisfied. It is not the end of the story. I like to think of these matters not only in [Mr. Harris.]

terms of nitrates and phosphates, dollars and cents, but also of human lives. What have these material elements to do with the matter when you put into the equation the livelihood of Canadian people. Think of the human element which enters into this question! If you, Sir, could have been with me on January 15 of this year in the city of Hamilton, you would have seen a plant worth \$100,000 of any man's money, established there for forty-two years, during three generations, two of which I know, manufacturing nitrates and phosphates. For forty-two years that business had carried on, and if business conditions were in any way stable, the machinery would be worth \$100,000. In fact, it could not be replaced for \$100,000. I saw a fool bid put on the proposition of \$10,000. I see somebody smiling. If you will pardon me a personal reference, I put on the bid myself for the whole thing, lock, stock and barrel. Some days later they said to me: "If you raise the bid to \$12,000, you can have the whole thing." Two years ago they used to employ fifty men and to produce from five to ten thousand tons of nitrates and phosphates. That industry had in its service one generation after another, not only of the owners, but of families of workers who found their livelihood there. That industry went out of business because they were not receiving a certain amount of protection. They did receive the 10 per cent until this government found it necessary to take it off. They went out of business because the Milson Works and the Crocker Works, in Buffalo poured into the Niagara peninsula, and the Michigan Carbon Works of Detroit, into Windsor, and western Ontario, ton after ton of nitrates and phosphates at a far lower price than they could be produced at in Canada. When they got the Canadian industry out of business, according to the statement by the Department of Agriculture here, and in spite of the fact that the basic price of these commodities in the big market of Baltimore, which is the controlling market, is lower, they raised the price to the Canadian farmer. I started off to say something about the human element, but in spite of ourselves we get into dollars and cents and nitrates and phosphates. When I heard the Minister of Labour (Mr. Murdock) yesterday reading something about the industries in Hamilton, about the good times that prevailed there, about the steel plant that was running and other plants, whose names I forget, I was thinking about something I read in the Hamilton Spectator and the Toronto Evening Telegram just about that time. I was thinking about a certain man who found