

The prosperity of this country depends upon the prosperity of the primary producers, and the agriculturists are the greatest body of primary producers in this country. What is the true condition in which we find agriculture to-day as a result of eighteen months of the sort of government we have had in this country? The following figures giving the prices received by the producer are rather startling:

	Cents
Wheat (per bushel) . . . . .	46
Oats (per bushel) . . . . .	18
Rye (per bushel) . . . . .	25
Barley (per bushel) . . . . .	26
Butter (per pound) . . . . .	20
Eggs (per dozen) . . . . .	15
Pork (per pound) . . . . .	3
Beef (per pound) . . . . .	3½

Mr. COWAN (Long Lake): Oh, oh.

Mr. McPHEE: Do I hear the hon. member for Long Lake (Mr. Cowan) cackling?

The price received by the producers for beef is only 3½ cents per pound. How can the farmers of Canada exist with prices such as these? The other day the Prime Minister referred to seventy-six municipalities which had been drouth stricken in Saskatchewan but even had there been no drouth the condition of the farmer in western Canada would have been very bad. The fact is that he cannot sell at a price which will return anything like the costs of production. As I said before, the best form of relief, as far as western Canada is concerned, would be for the government to get off the backs of the farmers.

There are no markets in which the farmer can sell his products. Belgium was a country with which we had a great deal of trade before this government came into office, and in order to emphasize the statement I have just made I shall read an extract from a newspaper in Brussels which is close to the government of that country. This article was published in January, 1931, shortly after the Imperial conference, and reads:

Just previous to his departure for the Imperial conference in London, Mr. Bennett brought down in the Canadian house a bill dealing with the tariff. The tariff changes which were immediately put into force were adopted by the Canadian parliament. It is of some interest to Belgium whose exchanges with Canada have favourably developed in the course of these last years, to examine the situation and to bring out somewhat the point.

The first truth which appears in consulting statistics with reference to commerce, is that the balance of trade is greatly in favour of Canada.

We learn, moreover, that Belgium is, with the exception of Great Britain, its best European customer in the purchasing of wheat, oats and barley, and ranks second or third of all Canada's clients in the purchasing of

these products; that it absorbs almost the total Canadian output of zinc ore and the greater portion of that of asbestos.

The balance of trade between the two countries, already greatly against Belgium, will certainly again be accentuated by this last measure.

Belgium can therefore not remain indifferent to Mr. Bennett's projected legislation of a distinctly protective character, and making for a complete revision of the Canadian customs tariff. It surely would be hardly conceivable that she should continue to be one of the best customers of a country which deliberately closes its doors to her products.

To counteract the Russian dumping, the government took the necessary protective measures which the situation demanded. Without there being any need of having recourse to such methods in the case of Canada, Belgium could very well abstain, in the future, from making her purchases in that country. Canada is not the only country which produces wheat, oats, barley, asbestos and zinc ore. There is no reason why Belgium should not supply herself with these articles on markets which are more friendly to her productions.

Not only did Belgium act in that manner but thirty countries did likewise. As a result of the tariff manipulations and tariff juggling of this government, thirty countries retaliated against Canada with disastrous results as far as the farmers of Canada are concerned.

Mr. BENNETT: Does the hon. gentleman realize that these so-called retaliations were against all other countries including Canada? Before this government came into power every country in the world but one had increased its tariffs against all countries.

Mr. McPHEE: The information which I am about to give the house was gleaned from The Commercial Intelligence Journal, a publication of the present government. Here is what it said a few months ago with regard to this action:

The countries which adopted unfriendly attitudes were Esthonia, Siam, Poland, South Africa, Germany, New Zealand, Mexico, Czechoslovakia, Bahamas, Italy, France, Argentine, Cuba, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Colombia, India, Norway, China, Bolivia, Denmark, Uruguay, Greece, Switzerland, Belgium, United States, Netherlands, Jugoslavia, Sweden, Irish Free State.

These countries retaliated against Canada with disastrous results to our producers.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman states he obtained his information from the official record, but that record shows that these countries enacted tariff legislation against Canada as well as all other countries. It was tariff legislation affecting imports; it affected Canada as well as other countries, it was not a case of retaliating against Canada alone.

Mr. McPHEE: That does not lessen the effect of my statement that they retaliated