

Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement

case of cattle, for instance, the tariff has been reduced from 3 to 2 cents per pound on animals weighing under 700 pounds, but only 155,000 such animals will be admitted at the lowered rate. As this number amounts to only three-quarters of one per cent of the total annual consumption of the nation the cattlemen have nothing to fear.

If the cattlemen in the United States have nothing to fear, neither have the Canadian producers of cattle very much to gain from that item. Now I should like to read another United States newspaper comment on this agreement, this time quoting from the Miami, Florida, Post:

With industrial payrolls up, the farmer and the dairyman will gain.

Of course they will. I do wish the representatives of the western farmers, for whom I have the very highest regard and whose problems I have tried to understand, could see these matters as I do. Perhaps if I were farming in the west I might be just as bitter as they are against producers in eastern Canada and against the workmen in the factories of the east, but I hope not.

The CHAIRMAN: I would ask the hon. member to confine his remarks to item No. 10.

Mr. MacNICOL: Very well, Mr. Chairman. But in any case I do not see that I am not addressing my remarks to item No. 10, since those employed in industry in Ontario and Quebec provide a market for farm products; naturally they must be the consumers of meats and other commodities, and I am anxious to convince my hon. friend, for whom I have a very high regard, that these workmen in Ontario and Quebec, yes, and in other provinces are a very great factor in the prosperity of the farmers of both the west and the east. As I pointed out the other day, the counties of Waterloo and Huron present a concrete example of that. So, if the industrial workers in Quebec and Ontario, numbering hundreds of thousands, are consumers of meats and other commodities—and they are—we should not do anything to injure the prosperity of those workers. A little later on, when the machinery items come up for discussion, I will read many editorials from United States newspapers showing that, in the opinion of the press, this agreement is going to be of tremendous benefit to industry in the United States, resulting in the engagement of thousands and tens of thousands of workers in the factories of that country. I have no fault to find with United States workmen getting work; I like to see men anywhere get work, but in this case it will

[Mr. MacNicol.]

interfere with the consuming power of workmen in Canada and will affect the farmers of Ontario and Quebec as well as those of the west because both Ontario and Quebec buy from the west. I have not the figures before me, but I know we buy thousands of head of cattle from the western provinces.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): In reply to my hon. friend I may say that we from the west have nothing whatever against the manufacturers or the workmen of Ontario or Quebec. The hon. member says that we are bitter against them, but we are not. We never have been, but we do say that we should not be subjected to a tremendous exploitation for the benefit of those people, and that is what has been going on in this country for many years. As a matter of fact, if you will look up the report—

The CHAIRMAN: Order. I must ask the hon. member to confine himself to item No. 10.

Mr. DUNNING: I would refer you, Mr. Chairman, to paragraph (2) of standing order 58, which reads:

Speeches in committee of the whole house must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under consideration.

I do not apply that to my hon. friend from Moose Jaw only; I apply it rather in a general way.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): Very well, I will get back to the item, which deals with meats. Cattle are meats, I understand, on the hoof. My hon. friend said that Secretary Wallace or someone else had stated that this small amount of cattle going to the United States certainly could not affect their market to any great extent, and for that reason we could not expect much benefit from this item.

Mr. BENNETT: That was not what he said.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): Just a couple of months ago I happened to take part in a by-election that was held in Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, and at that time I happened to meet some of the ranchers of that part of the country. This trade agreement had just come into operation, and I met a rancher who told me that he had just shipped some 248 head of cattle to the United States under this agreement. He said that he had gained \$10 per head on those cattle, and he told me that if he had known, when he was shipping last fall, that such an agreement was coming into operation, he could have made that gain on some 2,400 head of cattle he marketed at that time.