

remedy suggested by my hon. friends opposite, a scientific tariff, so-called, that is, a tariff which adequately protects the simpler and raw forms of products from foreign competition—the remedy suggested by my hon. friend from Cumberland (Mr. Smith) this afternoon; he said he was advocating a tariff on coal which would absolutely keep out American coal—if we had a tariff like that, increasing as our goods become more highly processed and reaching its maximum when the goods become most highly processed, it would mean a tariff amounting to 60, 70 and 75 per cent in the latter case. Such a tariff would be so crushing to our primary producers that it would depopulate whole countryside, let alone solve the problem of immigration!

The remedy in the maritime provinces is not to be found along those lines. So far as the rural sections are concerned, I suggested, in a speech that I made in the house a month or so ago two or three things which I thought the government ought to try to do in the direction of developing foreign markets. I was paid the compliment of being very severely criticized by the Halifax Herald, a Conservative newspaper in Nova Scotia. This paper said that I was simply repeating old party shibboleths, without any regard to their applicability to the conditions actually in existence in the province. But in answer to that criticism I want to put on record a little evidence. In Nova Scotia it has been admitted for many years, by both Liberals and Conservatives, that one of our greatest needs is wider markets. I refer to the submission of the claims of Nova Scotia made by the Rhodes government to the Duncan commission. At page 167 I find this:

It undoubtedly called for great sacrifice on the part of the farmers of this province to forego the advantage of the American market, as Nova Scotia is especially adapted to the production of vegetables, fruits and like perishable products which find a ready sale in the industrial centres of the New England states.

As a matter of fact, the Rhodes government has appointed a marketing representative to develop those New England markets in the person of Professor Cumming, the Secretary of Agriculture in Nova Scotia under the old Liberal government. The Liberal leader, Mr. Chisholm, made some criticism of Secretary Cumming being sent there on that mission, but the Halifax Herald, on February 18th, 1928, defending the appointment, had this to say:

Mr. Chisholm explains that his complaint that the former Secretary for Agriculture had been "degraded to the position of a commercial traveller to Boston" was a slip of the tongue, as doubtless it was, though a somewhat unfortunate one.

[Mr. Ilsley.]

Our own view is that that is not the point at all. A lapsus linguae is no "hanging matter", even if it is a trifle embarrassing. But just why it should be suggested that Dr. Cumming has in any way been "degraded" is a little more than we can understand. Finding markets for the products of Nova Scotia farms and orchards and dairies is just about the most honourable and most useful work in which any man could engage.

This from the very paper which states that no wider markets are necessary! Now, as a matter of fact, the expansion of markets which I suggested was the Cuban market for potatoes and the German market for apples. Anyone who denies the value of those markets is simply ignorant of conditions existing in the business or is misrepresenting the facts. There is no doubt about the value of those markets among the people who themselves are actually engaged in the production of apples and potatoes.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to deal briefly with a few of the attacks that have been made upon the budget, more particularly by the Conservative members from my own native province. I have always understood that a budget, while being a statement of the estimated revenues and expenditures for the ensuing year, is primarily a program of taxation. I know that the greatest budgets ever brought down in the British House of Commons, the budgets of Mr. Gladstone in the early sixties, were certainly programs of taxation which were designed to interfere as little as possible with the flow of trade in its natural channels. These budgets were succeeded by periods of great prosperity in England, in fact of greater prosperity than England had theretofore enjoyed. But the conception of a budget held by my hon. friends on the other side from the province of Nova Scotia is essentially and fundamentally different. They seem to think that it should contain something for themselves or their constituents. They say: What is there in it for us; what is there in it for this industry; what is there in it for this business? They seem to feel that the budget is a sort of Christmas tree and ought to be hung with prize packages and gifts for their constituencies. They seem to feel that the Minister of Finance is a sort of Santa Claus and if he does not stuff their stockings full of presents he is deserving of the very greatest censure from the Dominion. Now I think I am as sincerely desirous of seeing the province of Nova Scotia advance as anyone else, but I must differ emphatically from that fundamental conception of what a budget is. What do the Nova Scotia Conservatives suggest? I do submit that for the most part their suggestions are impracticable. We heard this