

be one of several in the neighbourhood who listened over the radio. Here was the message: "My fellow Canadians who are now within sound of my voice, just at this moment the Canadian ambassador to Tokyo, Mr. Marler, is on his way to China to negotiate the sale of your wheat with that great nation." When I heard the right hon. gentleman make that statement over the radio I thought how convenient for him it was that Mr. Marler happened to be in Japan, because I remember an occasion in this house two or three years ago when an estimate was brought down for the establishment of a Japanese legation, and I remember particularly that the measure was opposed by my right hon. friend in a vigorous speech. It was opposed also by one of his colleagues who moved that the item be reduced from \$50,000 to \$10,000. If my right hon. friend had had his wish on that occasion there would have been no legation in Japan; Mr. Marler would not have been there to go to China on this mission of selling Canadian wheat. What happened after Mr. Marler's visit to China? How much wheat was sold as a result of that visit? Here was a man who was going to enter into a treaty with a great nation to sell Canadian wheat, and after his return we read his statement as published in the press:

At present China is purchasing large quantities of wheat from Australia which owing to the decline in exchange rates, Australians will be able to sell as much as four dollars a short ton under Canadian prices.

This fact, Mr. Marler added, eliminates every possibility of Canada and the United States competing with Australia in the Chinese market during the current season.

Then we have a Mr. Lockhart, the adviser of the Chinese government in railway matters, giving an interview in the month of January last, which is reported in a Victoria newspaper as follows:

Primarily an agricultural country, China's vast areas will produce more than enough wheat for its own people, and you must look at her as a competitor when she brings the fertile plains of Manchuria to the state of full production.

In this connection the silver loan which is now suggested might be used to excellent advantage, provided it could be applied honestly and straightforwardly to put the country on a productive basis. However, that is not likely to happen. If all the contributory nations would consent to place the fund's administration in the hands of a select committee of the league of nations, the difficulty might be solved to a great extent, but such a suggestion will probably not be accepted.

At any rate, I cannot believe it will be good business to extend this loan unless it can be regarded. No question of sentimentality should enter into this negotiation.

Touching on Canada's proposal to participate in this suggested credit of several million dollars in silver, Mr. Lockhart stated:

If Canada's portion was advanced contingent upon wheat sales alone, it could not achieve its object.

Later on we have the Chinese Minister of Finance informing my right hon. friend and the world at large that China has all the silver she wants, that her banks are full of silver, and to pour more silver into them would not in any way improve the purchasing power of her people. He said:

China owes so much that she does not wish for any further loan either of gold or of silver.

And so this great message of deliverance, like the pre-election promises, amounts to nothing. But the farmer's wheat is selling in western Canada at the lowest price in our history, away below the cost of production. Truly my right hon. friend and his associates are on the slippery slope that leads to the bottomless pit. And yet he is still blasting his way to trade. At this point I might put on record for his benefit a poem composed by a former Conservative colleague of his in the territorial council in the early days, but who is now one of his most uncompromising opponents. Entitled "The Blaster Blasted," it is in the following words:

There once was a blaster who blasted;
From blasting he could not refrain;
Opportunity came and he passed it,
And all of his blasting was vain.

Friends and foes were alike flabbergasted
By this "builder of castles in Spain";
He nailed the wrong flag to the masthead,
His blast was no boon, 'twas a bane.

Let us pray that the blasts of this blaster,
Like hail on a field of ripe grain,
Portentous of loss and disaster
May bring nothing worse in its train.

High tariffs impede trade. Under the Dunning budget the purchasing power of this country would have been improved because we would have had free of duty a large number of imports from Great Britain. Reference was made the other day to the good-will offering of preference to the mother country. I think the hon. Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) questioned my right hon. friend the leader of the opposition with regard to it. I remember during the election campaign reading an article from an old country newspaper which illustrates the fact that lower tariffs mean increased trade and increased good-will between Canada and the motherland. Right after the Dunning budget was brought down last May the city of Bristol put on a Canada Week campaign.