

various departments of the government objected. He asked this question, "Which of us will tie the bell on the cat?" That was a poser. The council meeting broke up. They all ran away, and nothing was done.

We hear a good deal about the business failures that resulted from the Robb tariff of 1924—that is, we hear a good deal from our Conservative friends. We do not hear very much from any person else. We do not hear anything from the financial magnates of this country charging the Robb budget with having resulted in any such disaster. I have a particular knowledge of one manufacturing concern in eastern Nova Scotia and it might be well, perhaps, for me to give a little of it to this House. There is a fertilizer plant situated in the province of Nova Scotia which enjoyed, up to a year ago, a duty of 5 per cent. When the Robb budget was before parliament in 1924, the general manager of that plant came to me and said "If this tariff goes into force and the 5 per cent protection which we have enjoyed is to be taken away, we will be obliged to close our plant." "But," I said "your plant was closed two years ago. Surely you do not claim that the closing of your plant two years ago is the result of the Robb budget which is only now before the House of Commons." He said, "It is true we closed our plant two years ago in order to get rid of our surplus products." I asked him why it was they had such a large quantity of surplus products on hand. He said "We had to compete with fertilizer manufactured in Belgium and shipped to this country." I asked him if it were possible that fertilizer could be manufactured in Belgium, shipped across the Atlantic ocean, put upon cars and distributed in eastern Canada at a rate cheaper than they could manufacture it in the province of Nova Scotia. "Well," he said, "you know it is this way. When we decided to establish our plant in Nova Scotia the British Empire Steel Corporation were manufacturing their steel by the open hearth process, the slag which is produced by that process being higher in phosphoric content than the other. After we had established our plant a few years the British Empire Steel Corporation changed their mode of manufacture from the open hearth to the Bessemer process. The result was that their slag did not have the necessary quantity of phosphoric acid in it, and it was necessary to import that element from the United States to supply the deficiency." I said "Quite possibly you failed to supply enough of the deficiency, and your fertilizer has not been as successful as it otherwise might be." I

[Mr. Kyte.]

then asked him "If you had known that the British Empire Steel Corporation intended to change its method of manufacturing from the open hearth furnace to the Bessemer would you have established your plant there?" He said "No, we would not have established our plant there because it would not have paid us to do so." Then I said "You have made a mistake, you have made a wrong guess, and you want the farmers of the Maritime provinces to pay for your mistake by an increased tariff to supply the profits in respect to the investment which you have made." As a general principle I am not opposed to a reasonable duty but when the tariff is employed—

Mr. MARTELL: I ask my hon. friend this question, not for the purpose of interrupting but in order to get information: When the duty was taken off fertilizer was it not also removed from certain materials that enter into the manufacture of fertilizer? In my constituency there is one of the biggest fertilizer plants in Nova Scotia, and at the time of the proposed tariff change they feared all sorts of dire effects; but these effects have not come to pass. My hon. friend is right, the Robb budget of 1924 was in the interest of the farmers and consumers and that cannot be denied.

Mr. KYTE: That is perfectly true and I wish to add this statement: In addition to the fertilizer plant which that concern has in Nova Scotia it established a plant in the town of Welland, in the province of Ontario, a few years ago and within the last three weeks I was told that they have already booked more orders for the sale of their fertilizer in the present year than they booked in the whole of last year, showing that the Robb budget has not in any way affected their undertaking except, if anything, to increase the sales.

As I said a moment ago I do not object to a tariff which—

Mr. MEIGHEN: Would the hon. gentleman give the name of the concern he spoke of?

Mr. KYTE: I have no objection in the world. The Cross Fertilizer Company is the name it goes by in Nova Scotia, and I presume it is known by that name in Ontario. I have the statement of a gentleman who told me that they had already placed more orders this year than were placed in 1924. I was proceeding to say that on general principles I am not opposed to a certain amount of protection—