

years they had seen the markets of the world closed against the products of Canada, and particularly was that true of the great market to the south of us. However, they did not do anything. They just sat quietly and drifted along. Therefore when the depression came, all those nations which were trying if possible to get rid of their surplus goods began to dump them into Canada. Immediately those nations, the buying power of which was cut off by the depression, stopped buying from Canada, with the result that in one year while hon. members opposite were still in power there was a drop in Canada's exports amounting to \$243,958,005. In arriving at this figure I have compared the figure for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1929, with the figure for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1930. Hon. members opposite were still in power in those days, and even for a few months after that.

The hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth (Mr. Ralston) referred to the reduction in exports which had occurred while the present government held office. If there had been a reduction of nearly a quarter of a billion dollars each year this government has held office our exports would have been nearly wiped out. There was not the same reduction in our imports, because with our low tariff barriers the nations which were trying to get rid of their goods found it possible to ship them into Canada at distress prices. The result was that the reduction in imports amounted to only \$17,405,509. The total decrease in our foreign trade in that one year, while hon. members opposite were still in power, was \$261,363,514. The favourable trade balance of \$123,216,984 which we had in 1929 was changed in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1930, to an unfavourable balance of \$103,335,512.

The next question the electors throughout the country will have the right to ask is this: "Has the present government taken the proper action to lighten the effects of the depression, and to help end it?" The first action—and it is the action for which I highly commend the government—is that when they took office they had the courage sufficiently to protect our industries, a protection to which they were entitled. There was an increase in the tariff on textiles. If one tariff has been attacked more than another by hon. members opposite, I would say it has been the textile tariff. When we consider that the primary textile industry in Canada is the main industry in 160 municipalities, comprising a total of 450 mills, and that in the last year it supported a pay-roll of \$40,000,000, we will have some idea of the importance of the industry. Then, there was

protection given against dumping; this is one of the main charges hon. members opposite lodge against the government. They say unfair dumping duties were placed against textiles from other countries. Hon. members will recall the classic example given by the late Minister of National Revenue, Mr. Ryckman, who told of an importing firm in this country which wanted to bring in 10,000 dozen children's dresses. The cost of production in Canada was one dollar per garment, but they could be imported at thirty-three cents each; therefore it was necessary to threaten a dumping duty of two hundred per cent to keep the dresses out. I am absolutely in favour of that practice because the manufacturing of 10,000 dozen dresses in Canada would give employment to a great many men and women, not only in the primary textile industry where materials are fabricated, but in the factories where the dresses were completed.

May I draw the attention of the house to the fact that the rayon industry has received a protection which has assisted it greatly. The woollen industry, which had almost been destroyed by hon. members opposite, has been restored. Then, the Canadian farmer has been given protection which has meant a great deal to him, a condition with which I shall deal in more detail in a few moments. Wider markets under the empire agreements have been offered. Trade agreements have been completed with France, Germany, Austria, Brazil and Poland.

The manner in which this government has handled unemployment relief, to which reference was made by the hon. member for Medicine Hat has been attacked vigorously by hon. members opposite. If they study the conditions in other countries they will find no government which has had the interests of the suffering, the destitute and the unemployed more at heart than has the government of Canada. Further, they will find no government which has made more practical efforts to relieve conditions. Last night we had an example of the type of attack made against the present government when the mayors from different Canadian cities met with members of parliament. They put forward the proposition that all unemployment relief should be financed by the dominion government, that the municipalities should be relieved entirely from any share in caring for the unemployed. A most unreasonable proposition, unreasonable on the face of it because, as anyone can see, if the dominion government were to advance all the cost of relief, immediately every municipality from the Atlantic to the Pacific