

*The Budget—Mr. Hubbs*

of the United States, congress stepped in and not only replaced the former duty but made it higher than ever. I admit that the farmers of this country are having hard times; they are having difficulties, but where lies the remedy? Surely it is not in bringing European farmers here to grow more farm produce when we are unable to sell what we are producing at what it costs to produce it? Surely it is not in sending our boys and girls to the United States to get work, in closing down our industries so that our people cannot get work at home and must go somewhere else? Surely not in ruining what few industries we have and our all too-limited home market?

The hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) made the statement the other day that in 1917 the president of the Massey Harris Company said he believed his company could make more money with the duty off farm implements, provided also that the duty was taken off the raw materials that went into the manufacture of same. I would suggest that the hon. gentleman get the president of the Massey Harris Company to repeat that statement now. I admit that the Massey Harris Company made a statement in the papers the other day, but I would consider that that was only good advertising. The Massey Harris Company know they are whipped but they are not going to take it without a struggle. I consider that that piece in the paper was only a bit of very good advertising. Now at the time the Massey Harris president made that statement there is no doubt that the Massey Harris Company was making money and the farmers were making money also. But the trouble with the farmers is that they did not save their money; like many of the rest of us, they spent it as it came, rather fast and rather easily; they put it into automobiles and luxuries as most of us did—we spent our money as we went along, keeping up with the Joneses. That is the trouble we find ourselves in to-day; our money is gone and when hard times come along we are not prepared to meet them. If you will show me a farmer who saved his money through those good times, did not buy automobiles, continued with his horse and rig and paid attention to his business, I will show you a man who is well to do and who is not worried over the troubles of to-day. I would not care if by ruining the manufacturers of this country we would build up Canada, but the experience of the world has been that to be prosperous the farmer, the artisan, the merchant, the professional man, must all work together in

[Mr. Hubbs.]

order to build up the nation. The unanimous opinion of the International Agricultural Institute at Rome is that one artisan will keep one farmer. That being the case what we want in this country is more artisans, and we cannot have them without more manufacturing; we cannot encourage industry unless we make it possible for them to compete with the highly specialized and highly protected industries to the south of us. Are we to part with our industrial communities in order to employ underpaid workers in Europe when the textile mills and the Canadian industries that have been a great factor in the building up of this country for the last fifty years are compelled to close their doors? It is not because Canadians are buying less goods, it is because the British, French and Germans can undersell us owing to their cheap labour and their depreciated currency. Our great trouble is not too high tariff, it is the lack of money and too high tariffs in other countries which make it impossible for the people of Canada to dispose of their surplus products. We have an over-production of farm products and, as is always the case when you keep a market flooded, the prices have to drop. The market of the farmers of this country is ruined before they get started. You can go right down into the stores of this city to-day and see American berries on sale. The market for berries, cherries, peaches and other things that the farmers of this province produce is killed before our berries and small fruits are ready for sale. During this past year hundreds of cars of eggs, butter, cheese, milk, pork and other produce have continuously been coming into this country. Why should we keep our tariff on these articles at about one-third of the United States tariff? What we need in this country is a good, constructive tariff, one that will protect the farmer as well as the manufacturer. We need more cities and a population in the urban centres to consume our surplus farm produce. What is the sense of bringing more farmers into this country and producing more when we cannot sell what we produce now at what it costs to produce it? And why allow United States farmers to take the cream off our markets for fruit and vegetables just because their season is earlier than ours? If the rich want fresh fruit and vegetables the year round, let them pay for them; place a duty high enough that the government will get the benefit and the general burden of taxes will be lessened. Why allow the United States, or any other country for that matter, to dump goods into Canada that can be produced here, unless they at least