

And this is what I want hon. members to remember.

—during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1925, 26,965,412 pounds of such sugar were imported from Australia and valued at \$1,472,000. No importations of sugar were made from New Zealand.

Now what has this government been doing in connection with this industry? We have or had a year or so ago, a sugar beet growers' organization in western Ontario with a membership of over four thousand. These men are desperately interested in any question affecting the growing of sugar beets, and here is the position in which they are placed. This government, supported by the Progressives, on May 12, 1923, by their action in reducing the tariff on refined sugar, deprived the farmers of East Lambton of over \$50,000 in that year, at least \$50,000 more in 1924, and another \$50,000 in 1925. The sugar beet growers of my riding are well acquainted with the "bonus" arrangement as set out in every contract for acreage; such "bonus" being arrived at by taking the average price of sugar for the months of October, November, December and January. This "bonus" system directly affects all growers of sugar beets for Wallaceburg and Chatham factories, and is the basis of the price paid by American firms having acreage in Canada. Immediately on the reduction of the tariff on refined sugar by this government and the Progressives, to the extent of 50 cents per hundredweight, the market price of sugar beets dropped the next day 50 cents per ton, and the sugar beet growers of East Lambton suffered a loss of at least \$50,000 per annum. If you include 1925 crop this is a direct loss to the sugar beet growers of \$150,000 in the last three years.

Kent county is in an even worse position. The loss to the farmers in Kent county owing to the action of this government just two or three years ago has been estimated at \$300,000. Let me give the history of what happened to the sugar beet industry under the present government. The Union parliament dissolved on October 4, 1921. The sugar duties at that time were as follows:

	General tariff	Preferential tariff
Raws.	1.69	.85
Refined.	2.39	1.59

The Liberal parliament began their first session on March 8, 1922. On May 23 of that year the following excise tariff on the manufacture of beet sugar was proposed:

.49 per 100 lbs. of 99 per cent sugar effective immediately. As amended in the report of June 20, 1922. .24 per 100 lbs. of 99 per cent sugar effective 1st January, 1923.

[Mr. J. E. Armstrong.]

This was strongly opposed by the sugar beet growers in that part of the country, and the government were compelled to back down: But what did they do? They turned round and took half a cent a pound off refined sugar, and, as I have already stated, the very next day the refiners lowered the price of sugar beets to the growers by fifty cents per ton. Enormous sums have been lost by the farmers in that district on account of the action of the present government. How can the government expect to encourage a basic industry of this country like the sugar beet industry, if they treat it in the manner which I have just stated?

Mr. MacLEAN (Prince): The hon. member referred a moment ago to a bounty being paid to the growers. By whom is it paid?

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): I do not think I mentioned the question of a bounty in connection with this matter. A bonus?

Mr. MacLEAN (Prince): Yes.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): I explained that fully. That is well understood by the sugar beet growers in that part of the country. Let me carry this just a little further. This excise tax was abolished under the budget on May 11, 1923, and the duties on imports were reduced by forty cents on raws and fifty cents on refined to the following:

	General tariff	Preferential tariff
Raws.	1.29	.45
Refined.	1.89	1.09

Immediately following the reduction in the duty the price of sugar beets in Canada declined to a corresponding amount, so that farmers, who are paid for their beets according to the price of sugar, suffered a loss of fifty cents per ton on their product. This is clearly shown in the partial table given below which sets forth the price the manufacturers contract to pay the farmers for beets at the various price levels of sugar. Thus a grower delivering sixteen per cent beets at the \$7 price of sugar would receive \$8 per ton, whereas at the \$6.50 price of sugar he would receive but \$7.50 per ton for the same beets. I have compiled a statement in regard to the wholesale selling price of sugar, and I would like to have it placed on Hansard. The statement is as follows:

Net wholesale selling price of sugar				
Sugar in Beet.	\$5 00	\$6 50	\$7 00	\$8 00
per cent	Price per ton of beets			
13	5 50	6 00	6 50	7 50
14	5 50	6 50	7 00	8 00
15	5 50	7 00	7 50	8 50
16	6 00	7 50	8 00	9 00
17	6 50	8 00	8 50	9 50
18	7 00	8 50	9 00	10 00
19	7 50	9 00	9 50	10 50
20	8 00	9 50	10 00	11 00