

*Agricultural Products Act*

a summarized statement of the reduction of imports to Britain from Canada, as tabled in the British House of Commons on January 26, 1949. I have abbreviated these comments as much as I could, but I think their importance warrants my taking the time to give them to the house. It is an unprejudiced statement by British government officials as to what has happened, without attributing blame or any criticism to anyone. I shall give only round figures.

**Wheat flour.** Reduction in imports of 494,334 hundredweight from Canada and 2,628,150 hundredweight from the United States in 1948. This reduction was made up by an increase of 1,466,046 hundredweight from Australia. We lost and Australia gained.

**Barley.** Barley imports by Britain increased from 2,256,800 hundredweight in 1947 to 15,618,248 hundredweight in 1948. Argentina supplied 5,872,273 hundredweight and European countries 8,603,452 hundredweight in 1948. None came from Canada in 1948.

**Oats.** While Canada supplied about 93 per cent of the outside oats imported into Britain in 1947, sterling countries supplied 65 per cent in 1948, with the other 35 per cent coming from European countries, including Russia. None came from Canada in 1948.

**Beans.** Purchases from the United States and Canada were reduced to almost nothing in 1948. Purchases from European countries increased from 31,140 hundredweight in 1947 to 313,145 hundredweight in 1948.

**Bacon.** While British bacon imports from Canada decreased in 1948 by 90,960 hundredweight in 1947, imports from eastern European countries increased from 341 hundredweight in 1947 to 231,011 hundredweight in 1948.

I am not giving the minister any information that he does not have already. He is familiar with these things. We are selling over there only about one-quarter of the bacon we once did.

**Cheese.** Canada, the United States and Denmark supplied less in 1948 than in 1947, while imports from Australia, New Zealand, and particularly The Netherlands and France increased.

**Poultry.** Imports from Canada and the United States decreased to practically nil, while imports from sterling countries and central Europe increased.

**Shell eggs.** Our Canadian exports of shell eggs dropped to nine and a half million dozen in 1948. Imports from sterling countries, Denmark, The Netherlands and eastern European countries increased. The total imports increased in 1948 by 38,908,000 dozen. Ours is being reduced this year to about half of what it was last year.

**Frozen eggs.** British imports increased from 268,723 hundredweight in 1947, to 598,471 hundredweight in 1948. Canada supplied 20.2 per cent of the total imports in 1948 as against 5.2 per cent in 1947. That is one item in connection with which there was some advantage to us, but we lost on some of the higher quality eggs as well as other commodities.

The British imports of apples in 1948 increased to nearly 1,956,525 hundredweight from 1,490,346 hundredweight in 1947. Imports from Canada and the United States, which were 663,145 hundredweight and 610,843 hundredweight respectively in 1947, were cut off entirely. This is evidence that the British government is buying less from this side of the Atlantic ocean and more from the sterling areas and parts of Europe.

British imports of potatoes increased from 2,662,041 hundredweight in 1947 to 5,346,958 hundredweight in 1948, but none came from Canada. British imports of canned tomatoes increased from 311,097 hundredweight in 1947 to 621,261 hundredweight in 1948, practically double. Italy and other foreign countries supplied 515,537 hundredweight; imports from sterling countries increased, but none were purchased from Canada. The same thing can be said with respect to canned salmon.

When such a statement is tabled in the House of Commons it ought to shock the people of Canada and this parliament and this government into doing something to try to save that great market.

**Mr. Burton:** Before the hon. gentleman's time expires, will he tell the house how he suggests that that situation can be rectified?

**Mr. Bracken:** I shall be glad to do that. If the hon. member is suggesting that my time is up, I shall not keep the house any longer, although I have a great deal more to say. I do not want to ask any favours from hon. members. Perhaps it would be better for me to stop now, if I have spoken forty minutes and let others take part in the debate. If I do that, I will wish to say something on the motion for third reading.

**Mr. Knowles:** Or in committee.

**Mr. Bracken:** Or in committee. I wish to complete this summary, because I think this is an important matter.

**Mr. Gardiner:** I do not think it would shorten the discussion to deny the hon. member additional time now, if, in any event, he intends to take time later to place this information on the record. I think the house would agree to his placing it on the record now.