

general tariff, or if you please, left it at what it was before the treaty was negotiated, to what extent would it have stopped the importation of butter into Canada at this time? May I tell him?

Mr. BENNETT: I will tell my hon. friend. Imposing the dumping duty answers that.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The dumping duty, my hon. friend says, has stopped the importation of Australian butter.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): But it did not stop the importation of Australian mutton or beef. It has not stopped the importation of New Zealand butter, but the conditions that exist in Canada to-day have so far been more favourable than in any other country purchasing those commodities. I do not think anyone will deny that. I think it is a perfectly proper statement that the prices of butter, beef and mutton in Canada are very much higher than in other countries. We were competitors in all those commodities in the British market. We were exporters of butter. To-day we are out of the export butter business.

Mr. MACDONALD (Richmond): Why?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Because we are shipping cream and milk to the United States. As soon as we reach the point where we can satisfy our home consumption, we shall be exporting again. That is the reason we are not exporting butter. We are exporting cheese, as my hon. friends will agree, and we have to take world prices for that commodity when we are on an export basis. I have some sympathy with the complaint of my hon. friends. They claim that the remedy is to give food products in Canada the same measure of protection that is given to manufactured articles. I would be willing to consider it if I thought it would do the farming community any good. Did such action do the United States farmer any good? That is the difficulty of the United States government to-day and with the exception of France, the United States enjoys the highest protective tariff in Christendom. Nevertheless the farmers of the United States with a protective home market are in a worse situation than the Canadian farmers. I make the claim that in seven years out of ten—and this has been the history of Canada—food products have been on an export basis. We are not on an export basis to-day as regards butter.

Mr. MACDONALD (Richmond): Why?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Simply because of the increased consumption of butter in Canada; not because we have been suffering with respect to manufactured products as my hon. friend would have us believe, but because we have increased in manufactured products by leaps and bounds and because we have consumed and are consuming more butter. As a matter of fact as regards the consumption of butter, Canada ranks perhaps the highest in the world, consuming 29 pounds per annum per capita. It is because we have had prosperity that our people have been able to buy butter. The moment we go on an export basis again with respect to butter or any other commodity, we shall have to take world prices and again we shall be competitors of New Zealand and Australia in the British or any other market that is buying commodities of this character.

I do not contend for a moment that something cannot be done with the Australian treaty. I would regret it if we were to lose the advantage of the Australian market, because it means and will mean much to Canada. I am in favour of increasing to the fullest extent and by every possible means inter-empire trade, trade with Britain and with the overseas dominions. I believe this commonwealth of nations will profit tremendously by treaties that will increase the trade of overseas dominions one with another. If we are to have a trade treaty with New Zealand or Australia, there are few commodities that Australia and New Zealand have for export other than food products. If they cannot make a trade treaty with a country that can take some of those products, a moderate supply of them. I do not see what advantage the Australians or New Zealanders are going to have in making a trade treaty at all. But we in Canada have been friendly competitors of theirs in the British market, and that market has fixed the price for our butter, cheese, wheat, and generally speaking for all the food products that we have to export. At the present time my hon. friends are taking advantage of a situation when they find the Canadian market for butter the highest in price of any market in the world, higher even than the United States. My hon. friend forgot to mention that. The price of butter in Canada is higher than that in the United States where they have three times the protection that the Canadian government has placed against butter.

Mr. BENNETT: That is not what last week's New York market shows.