

Canadian butter industry, which has helped us in times when other products were low, and the growth of which can only redound to the advantage and prosperity of the Canadian farmer.

Mr. McMULLEN. The Secretary of State started out by telling us what was done in other countries. He has evidently got a little idea of what has been done, for instance, in the Australian colonies, but he is quite incorrect in his statements. He said that 2 cents per pound was paid by the Australian colonies as a bounty on butter that brought 16 cents per pound in the British market, and that there was 6 cents per pound paid on butter that brought 24 cents. Now, my hon. friend is not correct. It is 2 pence a pound paid on butter that brings over 9 pence per pound sterling in the English market; and it is 3 pence per pound that is paid on butter that brings over a shilling in the Australian market.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The dairy commissioner tells me that my figures are absolutely correct.

Mr. McMULLEN. I take my statement from the reports of the Australian colonies themselves, and I care not either for the Secretary of State or his commissioner. He may have valued it at 6 cents, but it is 3 pence a pound on butter that brings over a shilling in the English market. Now, with regard to the quantity that is being sent out, he asks for a vote of \$3,000 to cover the expenses of shipping 915 packages. Now, count that up, and it comes within a small fraction of 6 cents per pound. I commend the Government for providing cold storage, I am glad to know they are encouraging the butter industry. Anything at all that will help the poor farmers, will certainly receive encouragement from this side of the House. I presume that it is in the face of an approaching election that the Government are beginning to show their sympathy for the farmer, and to offer to provide cold storage, and to spend money in finding a market for their butter. The Government have done very little before this for the farmers. With regard to the cheese industry, the farmers are under no obligation whatever to the National Policy for the position that industry occupies in the English market. There is not an intelligent farmer in this Dominion who will admit that the National Policy has done anything for the cheese industry.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I was not saying that the National Policy was concerned in the matter; I said that encouragement had been given, not only by this Government, but by other governments, in the way of teaching better methods of dairying and in lending their assistance in that direction.

Mr. McMULLEN. The methods of manufacturing cheese was fairly well understood

Mr. MONTAGUE.

long before there was any experimental farm, or anything done by the Government here. The Ontario Government took a very active part many years ago in this direction, long before the Dominion Government did any thing at all. They sent out lecturers from place to place, who gave instructions to the people in the best methods of making cheese. The Dominion Government were late in entering the field to do anything for the cheese industry, and they are late in entering the field in regard to the butter industry. I agree that it is desirable we should encourage the export of butter in every possible way. We know that in the English market there is a larger field for butter than for cheese. I think we only exported something like \$2,500,000 worth of butter last year, and I think Denmark sent \$20,000,000 worth to the English market. It is desirable we should encourage this industry, and I hope the introduction of cold storage will tend in that direction; but I claim it would be much better to follow the Australian system, by which the Government would either grant a bonus to those who export butter and obtain a certain price for it, or supply the cold storage. I hope, at all events, the farmers will obtain some benefit, and that the business will increase.

Mr. CASEY. I should like to know if the provision for cold storage is limited to butter, or applies to fruits and other farm products. I congratulate the Government on one resolution to which they have come—they have gone out of the grocery business, out of the business of advancing money on butter, taking the risk as to what they could obtain for it. According to the statement made by the hon. Secretary of State to a question put by the hon. member for Stanstead, the prices realized on the butter purchased by the Government, on which they advanced 20 cents per pound, varied from 16 4-100 cents to 16 3-10 cents per pound, as shown by the returns up to the 14th of last month. The Government realized less by from 3 2-3 cents to 4 cents per pound than the amount advanced to the farmers. When this plan was proposed, it was held out to the farmers that they would probably realize on this butter something like 24 or 25 cents per pound, that the imprint of the Government would do much to increase the price in England, that the careful selection by experts, and its shipment in the best possible condition, which the Secretary of State said had been attended to, would cause it to bring much larger prices than those ordinarily obtained. The absurd failure of the whole scheme is proven by the fact that the selected butter has not realized to the seller in Montreal as much as creamery butter has averaged in the Canadian market. The butter selected by experts, and sent in the best possible condition to England, has not realized, by several cents, as much as creamery butter under ordinary circum-