

Montreal, but, not by any means all of the fruit. It would be almost impossible, physically to attempt an inspection of the fruit going forward in these cars, although we might make a special effort to inspect the fruit going in cold storage more than we do in other respects. We have done that to a considerable extent, but still not by any means completely.

Mr. BLAIN. How has the fruit arrived that has been inspected by the government inspector?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. We have never undertaken to stop fruit if it is in bad condition. We have no authority to do so. We have to allow it to go forward and the result has been that fruit in bad condition in Montreal arrived on the other side in bad condition. Fruit in good condition when put into the ships at Montreal arrived forward as a rule in good condition.

Mr. BLAIN. I would like to draw the hon. minister's attention to an article in the Montreal 'Herald':

New Butter Bill Unfair to Canada.

London, July 22.—The butter Bill which is now passing through the House of Commons, shows a preference to Ireland over the colonies. According to the provisions of the Bill, all butters, including colonial butters, which contain over sixteen per cent water, will be penalized. Irish butter will, however, be allowed to contain twenty per cent water, which gives the Irish dairy industry a decided advantage over that of Canada.

Could the hon. gentleman tell us if he has received a copy of the Bill and is informed as to its contents?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have not seen a copy of the Bill but I know that there was a Bill which did make some exceptions in connection with certain classes of Irish butter and allowed them privileges that other butters in the markets of the United Kingdom are not allowed. That is, of course, a regulation of the home authorities over which we have no control. I am trying to get information in regard to it, but I have not yet obtained any. I saw the item in question and that was the first intimation I had that Irish butters generally were exempted from the operation of the law requiring only 16 per cent of water in butter. I have not yet had any further details about it; but, I hope to get them very soon.

Mr. BLAIN. Has Irish butter, when it goes upon the market in the old country, any special stamp upon it to distinguish it from Canadian butter?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Only the private stamp. Of course, nearly all butter is marked in some way or other when it goes upon the market. Our Canadian butter has to be marked with the word 'Canadian' and Irish butter has special

stamps or brands put upon it which are known in the markets of England. I am not aware that Irish butter is given any particular stamp as Irish butter.

Mr. BLAIN. How is butter usually put up upon the London, Glasgow and Liverpool markets with which our butter comes into competition?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Of course butter is put up in all sorts of shapes just as our butter is put up in different shapes. There is some Irish butter put up in boxes, something like our own. Most of our butter is sent to England in square boxes but a good deal still goes forward in the old fashioned tubs. Irish butter is put up in different packages, some of it similar to our own, but according to our own law all butter going forward from Canada is marked 'Canadian' on the package. Of course, when it is turned out in retail stores it would not have that mark upon it. There is an English law which requires that all provisions coming from outside the united kingdom shall be marked with the name of the country from which they come whether foreign or colonial. For instance butter from Canada is marked 'Canadian,' New Zealand, is marked New Zealand, Australian is marked 'Australian,' Dutch is marked 'Dutch,' French is marked 'French' and so on. I do not think that law would require Irish butter to be marked 'Irish' because Ireland is part of the united kingdom.

Mr. BLAIN. Could the hon. minister tell us how the Canadian trade in butter is prospering? We see general statements and read the reports in the newspapers. Can the minister tell us the quantity of butter exported from each province last year, and whether it was put up in pound rolls or in what kind of packages?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The production of butter in Canada is less this year than usual, due to a large extent to the high price of cheese, so that factories which were equipped both for butter and cheese making, turned their attention to cheese, and also due to the fact that in the earlier part of the season we had a great drought and the production of milk was smaller than usual. Nineteen hundred was a large year; 1901 was a trifle smaller than 1900, but I think it is the largest except 1900 we ever had up to that date; 1902 was abnormally large and this year has fallen back very much. This year we have exported only about two-thirds the amount exported last year, but of course that does not show the quantity of butter in storage throughout the country. The reports say that the butter is arriving in England this year in most excellent condition. The reports issued by Mr. Weddell, a well-known firm in London, speak highly of our butter. We are exporting chiefly in fifty-six pound

Hon. Mr. FISHER.