

may say that we did. On the occasion last fall when the matter was up, I took it up with the Acting Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb), not in council but personally, and he immediately communicated with Washington on the question of reciprocal arrangements in connection with this class of cattle, and, I think, of sheep as well. I have not had an opportunity of discussing the matter with him lately, but prior to a few weeks ago he had not had an acknowledgement of his communication. My hon. friend knows pretty well what shape congress is in at the present time. They are not very free to do what they like. There is what is called a farm bloc there, and both sides are apparently wanting to please that bloc with the idea of avoiding a third presidential candidate. They do not propose to antagonize them by doing anything in connection with letting dairy cattle enter Canada free. I may say that I do not look for very much in the near future, although the Acting Minister of Finance communicated with them in the hope that possibly there might be some change of heart.

Mr. WARNER: I have not quite finished yet. I should like to point out to the minister that the people who are making the best grade of butter in this country are getting tired of having their butter pulled down to the lower grade, instead of something being done to make the other fellow come up to the higher grade. That is the condition now, and we would like to see some arrangement made which will pull the other fellow up instead of his pulling us down. We are trying to get away from that by turning out a grade above that of the Canadian butter, but I believe that the Canadian grade should stand for the very highest quality.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: One way of doing that would be to prohibit the export of the low grade butter. In addition to the government grade that is put on at the various centres in Canada, any province is permitted to put on its own private mark, and that applies to almost any product that the farmer exports. My hon. friend has intimated that the Alberta brand is put on the butter exported from that province in addition to the regular federal brand. There is nothing to prevent that, therefore he is getting the benefit of the reputation that has been built up through that system. As yet the Alberta brand is better known than the federal brand. The provinces have built up a reputation by their own private brands in the past,

and it is only in recent months that there has been a recognition of the value of the federal brand. It will be a year or two before it is fully accepted the same as our wheat grades are, and in the meantime any province may put on its own private brand and get the benefit of the reputation it has built up in the past.

Mr. JOHNSTON: If that is so; if the provinces can brand their own butter, thus building up a reputation for grade better than that carrying the Canadian brand, why not provide for grades one, two and three and let it sell on its merits?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We do.

Mr. WARNER: I am not quite satisfied yet. I do not like to feel that a province must do something that the Dominion is not doing in order to get a good market for its butter. That is what we are doing; we are forced to take a place over that of the Canadian butter, and I do not believe that is right. I believe that "Canadian" ought to stand for the very best, if it is possible to get it; if not, then, as the hon. member (Mr. Johnston) suggests, we should provide for grades one, two and three. But let us make the grade high enough to correspond with the best butter made in Canada. Let the other fellow take the smaller price if he wants to, but let him not come under our wing, sell with us and oblige us to take a lower price in order that he may dispose of his butter in the same market.

Mr. CAMPBELL: If I understood the minister rightly, he is afraid there will be some objections in the eastern provinces to these export regulations. I have gone over the trade figures and I am convinced that practically no butter is exported from Ontario and Quebec. If that is so, even admitting that there would be objections in the eastern provinces—which I am not ready to accept—then very little Ontario or Quebec butter would come under those regulations. I assure the minister that it means almost the existence of the agricultural industry in the prairie provinces to-day, because with the present price of wheat it is almost impossible for the farmers to continue unless there is a market for their butter in the United Kingdom. In spite of the economic conditions there, the figures show that the purchase of butter in that market is expanding year by year, and we are not even holding our own; we have almost entirely lost the market. We shipped a few cases of butter to New York last summer, but that is only a very small amount. It costs from the town of