

ter experiences: thus, in England rinder pest (cattle plague) was introduced in June, 1865—and by March, 1866, nearly 200,000 cattle had perished. It was carried thence to Holland and within six months 115,000 cattle were killed. Contagious pleuro-pneumonia from 1854 to 1860 killed over a million of cattle in the United Kingdom, worth at least \$60,000,000. Foot and mouth disease in 1872 affected over 200,000 cattle causing a loss of over \$3,000,000. Consequently it was to be expected that the time would come when an effort would be made to at least partially exclude these new and threatening competitors, and it soon became apparent that although on account of the existence of disease in the United States, an embargo was placed in 1879 on United States cattle, while Canadian cattle were free to enter British ports, and any market in Britain, it would require but a flimsy excuse to include the cattle of the Dominion in the schedule. This is illustrated by the following list of cases of detention of Canadian cattle from 1882 to 1892. I want to say right here that one of the most systematic courses of persecution was carried out on behalf of the British Board of Agriculture against the Canadian farmers which could possibly be imagined. they would seize our ships. Probably three or four large steamers a week loaded with cattle would land at British ports.

Some veterinarians would be sent from London to see if there was disease in our cattle. He would see the whole cargo. We were not allowed to sell them. He would have three or four slaughtered and their lungs sent to London for inspection, and in a day or two word would be sent back that there was no disease found in the cattle and they would be cleared. I maintain that the action of the British government in this matter is unfriendly, to say the least. Imagine a great and powerful nation like Great Britain allowing its Board of Agriculture to stoop to a subterfuge of that kind, in order to prevent competition from Canada. I think, Sir, that the time has arrived when the Canadian Government should say very plainly to Great Britain, respectfully and politely, but firmly, that Canada is no longer a nation in short clothes, that we have attained our majority, and that we demand our rights.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Better send a man-of-war over and take them.

Mr. BICKERDIKE. Yes. In August, 1883, three cargoes of cattle from Quebec on board the ss. 'Oregon', 'Nepigon' and 'Anger Head' were stopped at Liverpool by the privy council inspector, as being infected—it was stated in the first place, with splenic fever, and subsequently it was reported that Texan fever was the disease from which they were suffering. How-

ever, after a careful examination of several animals that were slaughtered, they were pronounced free from disease. I have hundreds of these cases, but I want to cite just a few to show the determination of the British government or of its Board of Agriculture to exclude Canadian cattle at all costs. At Bristol, in August, 1883, it was reported that foot and mouth disease had been discovered among Canadian animals at that port. Inquiries, however, into the matter elicited the fact that the animals had been passed at Liverpool as being in good order, and that they had been deposited, on their arrival in Bristol, in a yard in which some cattle from Ireland had previously been placed; and it was in this way that the Canadian cattle caught the infection. But it was in 1884 that we met with the greatest fright that the cattle trade of this country had ever experienced. On the 22nd of February, 1884, the steamship 'Ontario' arrived at Liverpool from Portland, Maine, with a cargo of cattle and sheep, some of which were Canadian. They were found to be affected with foot and mouth disease, and immediately slaughtered. That was the only case we could ever find of Canadian cattle affected with disease being landed on the other side. We knew that some mistake had been made or that some trick had been played, and we immediately called a meeting of the cattle men, which was held at Toronto, and over which the late Alderman Frankland presided. We decided to send men to Portland to endeavour to find out whether or not this was the case. Before we did so, the government here cabled to the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, then the Canadian High Commissioner in England, to have the matter investigated, because we felt sure that there was no such disease in this country. I wish to give Sir Charles Tupper credit for what he did on that occasion. He took off his coat and rolled up his sleeves, and went to work with a will. On the following day, however, we received a cablegram from Sir Charles Tupper stating that the cattle had landed there with foot and mouth disease. We immediately started an investigation to find out how that disease had been contracted. We knew that when the cattle left here, they were free from disease, and we traced the disease to the fact that the steamer 'Ontario,' on her previous voyage to this country, had brought from England to Portland some forty head of prize cattle for breeding purposes. These cattle were found during the period of quarantine detention at Portland to be affected with foot and mouth disease; but in the meantime the Ontario had started on her return trip to Liverpool with the cargo of cattle and sheep above referred to, and they on the voyage contracted the disease from the infected state of the vessel, as the steamer had not been properly fumigated. The moment Sir Charles Tupper brought that fact to the attention of the British Board of Agricul-