

adian farmer could only sell his creamery butter in Montreal for 15 cents, and the Dominion Government paid 21 cents, who got the difference? The Canadian farmer got it. The only thing to criticise is that the Government paid a little too much to the Canadian farmer for the butter they sent over to England; but no one lost money on it. The Canadian farmer has got whatever was lost, and it is paid by the Dominion Government. However, it is only a small sum, about \$3,000; but no matter whether the sum is small or large, hon. gentlemen condemn it because it is an effort by the Government to bring about a reputation for our Canadian butter in foreign markets. Now, I believe that many farmers in this country will bear me out in saying that if the Government pay annually \$10,000 or \$20,000, or \$100,000 in buying that butter from month to month, and putting it regularly on the English market until such time as the reputation of that butter was fully established, and the wholesale and retail men could afterwards buy it and send it there, it would be money well spent in the interest of the Canadian farmer. I am sure the Canadian farmer would appreciate it, and would defend the Government for doing it. We know that, notwithstanding all the efforts of the wholesale merchant, notwithstanding all the efforts made by farmers themselves, for the last ten years especially, we have not been holding our own in the English markets with butter. If we have failed to do so through private enterprise, should we blame the Government for coming forward to assist private enterprise? From all the evidence we can get on the subject, we shall succeed in this effort, if we only persevere. If we continue in this direction for a little while longer, we shall be able to sell millions of pounds of butter in England in the future, in place of the small quantity we sell there now. As the dairy commissioner has said, we only supply a small portion of the butter used in England, whereas in cheese we are selling 60 per cent of all that is used in that country. Why can we not do the same thing in butter? I think it is unfair for the hon. gentlemen opposite to oppose the Government for their policy in this direction, and I am confident that the farmers throughout the country generally will heartily approve of their policy.

Mr. SEMPLE. The experiment of the Government in buying butter from the farmers and shipping to Great Britain so far has been a small one, but no doubt the farmers are thankful for small favours. A great many farmers think they should have protection on butter, but not in the way that my hon. friend is doing. I wish to read an extract from the "Farmer's Sun" in regard to which I would like some information:

The farmers of Canada will not fail to notice that official returns show that Sir Mackenzie

Bowell's Australian policy of importing Australian agricultural products into Canada, is getting under full swing by reason of the line of steamers subsidized by our government. Official returns from Vancouver show that from July 1st, 1894, to February 1st, 1895, the following quantities arrived from Australia: 7,552 lbs. butter, value, \$1,355.

There is also another statement that by this policy the Australians have been enabled to ship butter as far as Sudbury. It says:

For example, the following advertisement of a Sudbury firm appeared in the issue of the Sudbury "Times," of May 2nd, 1894:

"From Australia ex ss. Warrimoo, to Vancouver, B.C., thence by the C.P.R. transcontinental line to Sudbury direct. We herald the arrival of invoices of consignments of creamery butter from the celebrated Rosebud Creamery of Newcastle, N.S.W., also tinned meats, the product of the country."

So it is plain that while the Government are endeavouring to find a market in one quarter, their policy of procuring cheap freights from Australia is filling up this country with butter. I wish to know from the Secretary of State, if he can tell how much butter is coming from that country, and if the Government propose to do anything to retain the market in that section of the country for Canadian farmers, that has hitherto been supplied from Australia? I read this extract from the "Farmer's Sun," the organ of the farmers of Canada. They are sensible of the fact, and feel it keenly, since they have to pay for steamers to bring butter here to compete with the products of their own country.

Mr. DAVIN. I should like to say one or two words, and I will be very brief, because I shall have an opportunity at a subsequent period of saying what I want to say on the question generally as regards butter and as regards butter in the North-west Territories. Let me say this, however, that I congratulate the Government on the determination expressed through the Secretary of State to continue a policy of developing to the utmost the butter industry of this country, and securing for it the greatest possible advantages in being placed on the English market. Having said this much, let me add a word in regard to the controversy which has prevailed to-night. The hon. member for Bothwell and the hon. member for Elgin argued as though the Government had gone into the butter business. The meaning of that is, if it has any meaning at all, and at all events it is what the hon. gentlemen intended to convey and the whole cogency of their argument depended on it, that the Government went into the trade in butter with a view to make a profit. Palpably, however, that is not what the Government did.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Yes.

Mr. DAVIN. What the Government did was to adopt a scheme by which they would