

at the border with quarantine regulations. It was necessary that the cattle should remain in quarantine for ninety days. The result was a tremendous cost to the importer, making it impossible for him to trade profitably with the United States.

Why, Sir, if my hon. friend will take up the London "Free Press," if he will take up the Brockville papers, if he will take up the Buffalo papers, within a few days after these new quarantine regulations came into effect, he will find that thousands of cattle at once went from Ontario to the United States, and found a market in the city of Buffalo. It was not profitable to ship away our cattle at that time to England, and the new regulations enabled the Canadian stockman to ship his cattle to the United States last winter and receive profitable prices for cattle that otherwise he would have had to winter over and ultimately send to England for sale. Why, the Buffalo papers day after day remarked upon the tremendous impetus given to the cattle trade. Twenty carloads would come in, forty carloads would come in, during the day, finding a ready sale, and the consequence was that the Canadian farmer had a market open for his surplus products that he would not have had had not these quarantine regulations been brought into operation by the present Minister of Agriculture. What is the position? Was there any greater safety then than there is now? At that time the animals imported into the country had to be put in quarantine; now, instead of going into quarantine, a veterinary surgeon appointed by the Government, certifies that these cattle are free from disease, and upon that certificate the United States authorities allow them to enter that country. We in like manner accept from the United States officer his certificate to the same effect, and we allow those cattle to come into Canada. As a matter of fact, we import no cattle at all, except for breeding purposes; and I venture to say that any cattle imported into the North-west Territories must be for the same purpose—not for the purpose of entering into competition with local breeders, not for the purpose of feeding and going back again to the United States, but for the purpose of improving the herds in the North-west Territories. No cattlemen would take their cattle from Montana, or from Idaho, or any other state, into the North-west Territories, paying a duty to Canada, and then take them back to the United States, paying the 20 per cent duty which is exacted there again. It would not be profitable, and not being profitable, it will not be done. I apprehend that the gentleman who wrote those letters, parts of which my hon. friend has read to the House, were apprehensive that injury might result, when, as a matter of fact, no injury has resulted. The quarantine service of Canada and the United States did not work satisfactorily. It was overloaded with officers,

Mr. LISTER.

it was costly to the country, and it was an impediment to trade between the two countries. These difficulties and objections have been removed to a great extent. So far as safety is concerned, I venture the assertion that we are as safe to-day as we were when the quarantine regulations were in force which compelled us to keep those animals in quarantine ninety days. In my own town we had a quarantine, and I venture to say that in all the years it was in force I do not think one single animal was destroyed on account of disease. They were put in there, poorly attended to, often at great expense; they were not entrusted to the man in charge of the quarantine, but to the hired men themselves. Only animals were imported into Canada that were brought in for the purpose of breeding. It was a subject of irritation, but it was a subject of loss and complaint; and I repeat the statement which I have made, that the Minister of Agriculture, in removing those objections, in carrying out what I believe his predecessor intended to do, and tried to do, has bestowed upon this country a great benefit that it would not have enjoyed were it not for the regulations being changed and made as they are to-day. It is quite possible that within a very few days the tariff of the United States may be so high as to prevent the importation of cattle into that country at all; but at the present moment, and for months past, vast quantities of cattle have been exported to the United States to the great profit of the farmers of this country. Papers which support my hon. friends opposite have spoken in terms of the strongest commendation of what has been done; and I venture to say that there is no paper in Ontario East, and I doubt if there are many in the west, thoroughly understanding the subject, which would be prepared to take exception to what has been done by the Government. The Government are entitled to the thanks of every stock-raiser in this country, and I believe they will receive it. A return to the old condition of affairs would be taking a step backwards, a step not in the interests of the people of this country.

Mr. MONTAGUE. There is no one, I think, who will for a moment say that the subject which has been brought to the attention of the House by the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) is not a very important one indeed. It has many phases, one of which has not been touched upon, either by the hon. gentleman who moved the motion or by the hon. member for West Lambton (Mr. Lister), who has continued this discussion. I may be pardoned, perhaps, if I go for a few moments a little outside of the line which these gentlemen have taken, and refer to another phase of the question which will be very interesting to the House, more particularly in view