

gentleman will recollect that when the bill relating to cold storage came before this House last year a very full statement was made as to the desire of the government to facilitate in every way the development of the dairy industry in Prince Edward Island. They fully recognized that Prince Edward Island was likely to do its share, and probably more than its portion in comparison with other sections of Canada, and the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries both visited Charlottetown for the express purpose of endeavouring to make arrangements in the interest of the dairy industry in that island. The difficulty that was met was the absolute impossibility of taking up the subject inasmuch as it was alleged that steamers that would put in cold storage could not be provided with sufficient freight from Prince Edward Island to fill the vessel. That was the difficulty in the way. I hope, however, that that difficulty will not continue; I hope that things are improving and that we may, probably in the near future, be able to induce some of the vessel owners to take up the question seriously to give Prince Edward Island the benefits of cold storage. We will know more about that, of course, later on, when the estimates come down. In the meantime the hon. gentleman could not help having a fling at the government for claiming any credit for the cold storage movement. It does seem to me, if my memory is correct, that the development of this industry is largely due to the action of the present government.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Oh.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman says oh. I do not propose to discuss the subject, and I only allude to it now because the hon. gentleman mentioned it himself. I refer to the statutes, and I find that the year before the change of government, in 1895, the magnificent sum of \$3,000 was given to aid the cold storage movement. There may be other votes, but certainly the amount, compared with the Liberal votes placed in the estimates last year, is small.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I am sure my hon. friend does not wish to make a wrong impression, and I should like to ask him just this question: did not the present government, when they came in, find in the

Department of Agriculture an entire scheme prepared?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Oh, no.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—My hon. friend says no. I am in a position to say yes. It was entirely blocked out.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—A great many un-matured schemes, I have no doubt, were in the brains of some members of the late administration, but promises and actions are two different things, and it was not very good taste for the hon. gentleman to make the criticism he did, inasmuch as the gentleman who is now at the head of the Department of Agriculture has taken a very personal interest in this matter and has endeavoured to stimulate this industry in all parts of the Dominion and has visited Prince Edward Island with the express purpose of aiding it there, and he regretted very much indeed that he was unable to secure a vessel in which cold storage could be provided for the purpose of giving Prince Edward Island the benefit of that direct communication. It was determined then that a vessel should be found to carry it to Halifax, but as the hon. gentleman himself has observed, that very materially detracts from the benefit of cold storage, because if the temperature is changed for even half an hour, it militates against success. However, the government will endeavour in some way to meet the views of the island at no distant day.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I wish to draw the attention of the House before this discussion closes to the trade and navigation returns between Canada and the West Indies in order to show there is a decided falling off in our trade which is greatly to be deplored. In 1882 we were importing \$4,000,000 value from the West Indies. And it fell more or less, but in 1892 we were still importing \$4,000,000, in 1893 we were still importing upwards of \$4,000,000, in 1895 we were importing nearly \$5,000,000 from the British West Indies. Now, in 1897 it has fallen to \$1,678,000. It is the same way with the exports. The exports and the imports added together is the lowest trade we have had with the West Indies since we entered into confederation. It is a very unfortunate position that we should be falling off in the natural trade which should exist between the colonies that