

ada, who have to feed their cattle at this season of the year and are exposed to most trying conditions in attempting to carry on, be placed in a position where they are compelled to compete with Australian butter produced under much more favourable conditions? If the statement read by the Minister of Finance correctly expresses the views of the dairy commissioner I would suggest that the latter had better go back to New Zealand and carry on there. The time has come when we as a people must take a definite stand, and see to it that the agricultural products of Canada are properly protected. If hon. gentlemen opposite will not support this stand, our agricultural friends will see to it when they again appeal to the country that they are not returned, and they will have merited their defeat. The hon. member who interrupted comes from the province of Quebec I believe?

Mr. BALDWIN: Yes.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): Has the hon. member ever heard representatives from Quebec get up here and denounce these treaties? Why not? The province of Quebec is the second greatest dairy province in Canada, yet when its interests are threatened the members from that province keep their seats or indulge in carping questions. There never was a time, in my opinion, when the dairy-men of the province of Quebec should be more thoroughly alive to what is going on.

Mr. BALDWIN: They are satisfied.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): Oh, my hon. friend cannot make me believe they are satisfied. They cannot be satisfied under present conditions and the hon. gentleman knows it.

Mr. BALDWIN: Nothing of the kind.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): It was a pitiful sight to see the Minister of Finance pleading for the pulp and paper barons of Canada while the agricultural industry was being undermined. At this time the Australian government placed a bonus of \$15 a ton against our paper manufacturers. "We had to do something," was his cry. What did he do? He sacrificed the dairy industries to satisfy the paper manufacturers, and the Minister of Finance, using the same terms as the Minister of Agriculture, said, "It will not hurt the farmer." I cannot help thinking that the Australian statesmen put one over our government at that time. I wonder if hon. members opposite realize that the people of Canada through the federal government are spending practically six million dollars

per annum in helping to develop the farming industry of this country, and that the provincial governments are spending a like amount for the same purpose. It is to be remembered that when it is summer in Australia it is winter in Canada, and that these goods, the product of Australasia, move to our country under low ocean rates, while our goods are subject to high railway rates.

Let us look for a moment at this Australian treaty. I have here a report of the Commercial Intelligence Journal, issued every Saturday. I refer to the issue dated Ottawa, January 30. On page 48, I find the following notes:

Commercial Notes From New South Wales

Commercial Agent, B. Millin

Record Australian Sugar Crop Expected

Sydney, Australia, December 17, 1925.—Most of the sugar crop of Australia, all of which is grown on the east coast, comes from the state of Queensland, the balance being derived from the northern part of the state of New South Wales. The Queensland production of sugar cane for 1925 is expected to be 3,753,000 tons, which will constitute a record crop. As regards sugar it is estimated that the total yield of the Commonwealth will be 519,000 tons of which 484,000 tons will be produced in Queensland. A considerable quantity of this yield will be available for export and, in view of the preferential tariff now in force, it might be worth the consideration of Canadian importers.

Since 1920 the area under cane has increased from 162,619 acres to 253,519 acres, while the number of growers has made the proportionately large increase from 4,000 to 6,000 during the same period.

Now let us see what this means to the sugar beet industry in Canada. A number of us in this House come from western Ontario, where there are located two large sugar refineries, built at a cost, with equipment and connections, of about five million dollars. It is estimated that at least fifty thousand of the people are dependent to a large extent on the production of sugar beets and the handling of this product at the factory. What happened to this sugar beet industry, and what will happen when we take into consideration the treaty which this government has entered into with Australia? I have here a letter from Mr. Watson, Chief Appraiser of Customs and Excise, dated February 8, in which he says:

Referring to your telephone inquiry this a.m. as to the date on which the rate of duty on raw sugar imported from New Zealand and Australia was reduced and also the amount of such sugar imported from these countries.

The maximum rate of duty on Australian and New Zealand raw sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard in colour and imported direct into Canada from any British country, was reduced to 46.50 cents per 100 pounds on May 12, 1923. This tariff change is contained in Departmental memo. No. 32 (revised), a copy of which is enclosed herewith for your information.

During the fiscal year—