

The Address—Mr. Esling

The invasion of American eggs has started earlier than anticipated this year and the local market is flooded with American storage eggs, purchased last summer, at 12 to 15 cents per dozen. As a consequence, the demand for our local new laid eggs is nil.

And I have innumerable letters and some telegrams in connection with the effect of the Australian treaty. Before I go further I will refer to a statement of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) yesterday with reference to Australian eggs.

Mr. ROBB: Will the hon. member tell us what change has been effected in the duty on eggs coming in from the United States to Canada in the last twenty years?

Mr. ESLING: I do not know anything about that; I am talking about the responsibility of this government. The government have been in power for four years now and have not heeded the complaints that have been made. They have had every opportunity of remedying these grievances, but they have not done so.

The Minister of Finance yesterday went on to say that we could not expect any injurious effects from the importation of Australian eggs, because even if the eggs were shipped on the day they were taken from the hen, and then put on a fast train at Vancouver and expressed to Montreal and Toronto, the people would not eat them because they are not accustomed to eating eggs of that kind.

Mr. ROBB: From West Australia.

Mr. ESLING: From West Australia or any other place. These eggs are imported, and they come in competition with our own eggs, and neither the Minister of Finance nor any other member of the government nor any member of parliament knows what he is eating when he eats an egg these days, because in the eight months from April 1, 1925, eggs have been imported into this country from China in the shell to the amount of 28,000 dozen. You might say you would know a Chinese egg when you saw one, but you do not when they come in frozen, in bulk, in barrels and cans, as they do. They have come in, in bulk, to the extent of 917,000 pounds since the 1st of April, 1925. You do not know what you are getting when you go into a restaurant these days and order scrambled eggs; they may be eggs from China, Australia or any other place; they all fill the bill, and you cannot tell where they come from when they come in frozen. They are used by this great chain of bakeries and by cheap restaurants in the large cities, and they come in direct competition with the eggs produced in Canada. More than that,

[Mr. Esling.]

just in order that the Minister of Finance may be a little careful for the next week or two, let me say that I am credibly informed that up to the last three weeks there have been in cold storage in the city of Montreal no less than seventeen carloads of Chinese eggs.

Mr. EVANS: I would like to ask when the Dumping Act was removed so that it did not apply to apples. It was only put on in 1922 by this government to cover natural products.

Mr. ESLING: The Dumping Act was removed by this government, and a subterfuge, camouflage amendment was made to the Customs Act to fool the people; and that is what is going on to-day.

I want now to say a word to the hon. members from Saskatchewan particularly in connection with the Australian treaty. I have here a clipping from the Canadian press dated Regina, February 6, 1926, referring to the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries, Limited. This company did a business of \$68,000 last year, and according to this despatch the directors in their annual report called attention to "the impending peril to the dairy interests of western Canada created by the Australian trade treaty." I would think, Mr. Speaker, that this large co-operative creamery corporation in Saskatchewan voices the sentiments of the dairy interests of Saskatchewan, and here we have it calling attention to the impending peril to the dairy interests of western Canada created by this treaty. The despatch further goes on to say that the company will be represented by a delegation of the Western Dairy Association which will shortly wait upon the federal government in this connection. That would be a very interesting interview to attend for those members from Saskatchewan who are favouring this Australian treaty.

Mr. VALLANCE: Does the hon. member know that the Co-operative Creamery made a profit for the first time last year?

Mr. ESLING: I know that the Australian treaty only came into effect on the 1st of October last, and this organization in Saskatchewan is evidently anxious about the effects it is going to have on the dairy interests of western Canada.

There are various other matters which the Speech from the Throne does not mention. I might say a word on a subject which was discussed in the campaign in my district. I think it is a matter for regret that absolutely no mention is made in the Speech from the Throne as to the necessity of looking after the welfare of the returned soldiers. We must