

times, at about half the rate that it costs to bring coal from Alberta to London? These are some of the things that ought to be squared away, and it is for hon. members to stay here and help to square them away; that is what we are asking.

Mr. EVANS: At how much loss to the railways are cattle and wheat carried?

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): If the hon. gentleman wants me to go into details—

Mr. EVANS: Prove your words.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): The hon. gentleman can easily find that out. Let him compare the rates charged in this country with those charged in the United States. I am not complaining. As a representative from the province of Ontario I say that we have been only too glad to help develop that western country, but we do ask for fair treatment for the agricultural interests of old Ontario.

I was dealing with the home market, Mr. Speaker. I wonder why it is that practically every country in the world except Canada has raised its tariff since the war. Are all these other countries wrong, and is only Canada right?

An hon. MEMBER: Yes.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): I do not think it was the Minister of Public Works (Mr. King) who said yes, but a new member sitting near him. After he has had a few more years experience, I do not think he will take that position. The people of this country in the last election took a definite position in regard to that question. In the last House we had 65 Progressives, and one of the planks of their platform demanded free food products. To-day this group has only 24 members supporting that policy, and I predict that their numbers will be less when the people who voted for that policy understand what free food means to the farming industry of Canada.

Let us look at the Australian treaty for a few minutes. To my mind the Australian government recognizes that they have got the best of the bargain. In the Australian Parliamentary Debates of September 26, 1924, at page 4846, I find this:

Mr. Pratten (Minister of Trade and Commerce): On the other hand, Canada is looking for a more extensive market for her secondary products, as her trade with Australia consists almost wholly of manufactured goods. We can readily imagine that the concessions proposed by Canada on primary products, of which she is a large producer, will lead to criticism by representatives of Canadian primary producers on the ground that their interests are being sacrificed to Canada's need for markets for manufactured goods.

[Mr. J. E. Armstrong.]

Mr. Pratten struck the nail on the head. Canadian primary producers are being sacrificed to Canada's need for markets for manufactured goods under this government.

Now let us look at some of the statements made by wholesale brokers in this part of the country in connection with the Australian treaty. I have here a statement from H. G. Moore & Company:

Just a word on the butter market and Toronto conditions as we see them.

You all know that storage stocks of butter are away down, and according to figures we should all be getting 50 to 55 cents for butter according to stocks.

But no! The reason is this: Everyone has butter and doing all they can to get out from under before this foreign butter arrives which is costing from 37½ to 43½ cents f.o.b. Toronto. It will get worse for you before it will get better because the wholesalers here are filled up with butter, and with foreign butter coming in they will not buy fresh butter.

Then J. M. Ham makes this statement:

We are approaching the time when foreign butter will be on the market. A shipment of New Zealand is due here about January 20, and is being offered at 41 cents duty paid. Also, considerable Australian butter, which was purchased by dealers earlier in the season, will be arriving towards the latter part of the month, and undoubtedly prices here will have to react to a point in line with import costs.

Then I have another letter from Mr. Ham bearing date January 15:

Our butter market is lower. Fresh creamery firsts are offering to-day from western Canada at 40 to 40½ cents, and seconds at from 39 to 39½ cents delivered Toronto. Buying at the lower level, however, is still on a limited scale. The lower prices have been caused through heavy arrivals of Australian and New Zealand butter on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, which has resulted in pressure to sell from western creameries, and just how far prices will have to decline here to keep western offerings moving, is difficult to say, but it will depend largely on the foreign situation.

Then there is another letter from H. G. Moore & Company to the following effect:

Australian butter will arrive in Toronto and Montreal this week, or the first part of next. Falling prices cause depression in business, and rising prices hopefulness and activity.

Mr. Ham in another letter dated January 13, says:

It is indeed unfortunate that our duty on butter was lowered. In my opinion it should have been raised. At the moment there are about eighteen cars of Australian butter rolling to the Toronto market from the Pacific coast, and more arrivals due on the Atlantic. This reduction of duty simply means that three cents pound is being taken out of the farmers of Canada.

I have here an advertisement taken from the Montreal Gazette of January 28 extolling the virtues of New Zealand butter. The representatives of New Zealand in Canada know how to advertise, as will be apparent when I read the advertisement. It is as follows: