

the duty raised. Personally I do not agree with that point of view at all, but I put it to the leader of the Government, that if he says the farmer must be protected, surely it is up to him, and up to the Government, to come forward and increase the duty on fruit, protect the farmer, and give him a protection that really amounts to something. The same thing would apply to the case of a man raising cattle or sheep in British Columbia. In British Columbia today we do not produce enough cattle or sheep for the purpose of supplying the province, and the result is that a great deal of the beef that is eaten in British Columbia is brought from Australia in cold storage. This business is increasing every month, and only a short time ago it was increased by extra ships being put on for the purpose of bringing these products into the country, direct from Australia to Vancouver. The result of this is, of course, that the price of beef and mutton is practically fixed by the cost of bringing this beef and mutton to Vancouver, and the price at which it can be laid down there. If the farmers are to have protection, they would naturally ask that they should be protected from having the market interfered with in this way, but of course, the hon. gentleman may say that if you do such things, you are going to raise the cost of living. If the raising of the duty on beef and mutton coming into Vancouver would raise the cost of living, surely reducing the duty on beef and mutton coming into the country would have some effect in reducing the cost of living. That is the question that is affecting very seriously and materially people all over this country.

Another article of food that we are to-day importing into this country in large quantities, is butter from New Zealand. The figures show that this importation of butter from New Zealand into Vancouver—and of course from Vancouver it is distributed throughout a large part of the western country—is increasing very largely. I have been surprised to find the amount of butter that is sold in the province of British Columbia. Only the other day one ship alone coming from New Zealand to Vancouver brought over 17,500 cases of butter, and the point about it is that this New Zealand butter, apparently, is better butter than is made in the creameries of Canada, or on the farms of the province of British Columbia. On inquiry, I find, in the stores of the country, where the butter has to be brought from Vancouver by rail, and a very high freight rate has to be paid upon it, that a great deal more of the New Zealand butter

is sold in these stores than butter manufactured in the country, and simply because the people who are buying it claim it is better butter, and they prefer to pay rather a higher price for New Zealand butter than they will pay for butter from the Alberta creameries, or for that made by the farmers locally. This is the case where the people are using the butter brought in from the outside. They are paying a duty to the Government before they use it, and therefore the price of butter is raised to the farmer and to the people who are using it, more than it would be if there were no duty on the butter. The curious part about it is that this butter from New Zealand, after travelling so many miles, and standing this long sea journey, should be preferred to butter made in our own country, which could be laid down in the stores in a very much quicker time, and should, therefore, be very much fresher than the butter brought all the way from New Zealand and then distributed all over the country. There must be something wrong when butter like that can be brought into this country, and can compete on favourable terms, and is asked for in these stores by the people who consume the butter in preference to the butter that is made in the creameries in this country.

There was another matter in the Speech from the Throne to which my attention was particularly drawn. One paragraph in the Speech from the Throne reads as follows:

The volume of immigration during the present fiscal year promises to be greater than that of any preceding year. It has come in greatest measure from the British Isles and from the United States, but a large stream of desirable immigration has also reached our shores from other countries.

It must be a great satisfaction to everybody who has an interest in this country to know that this volume of immigration is keeping up in the way that it is. The people who come into the country are bringing their money with them; they are coming here to make a living. Every man who comes into the country is a source of wealth and of use to this country and helps to push forward its development. Some attention, however, should be paid to what has been said by various gentlemen throughout this country, and especially by prominent men in the financial world and captains of industry who know what is being done with regard to the large works now being carried on through this Dominion. Recently Sir Edmond Byron Walker—a gentleman who was held up to us when there was a dis-