

are decried in order to obscure the fact that the protection exists, a wrong is done us, which is quite in contravention of the boasted system of British fair-play that we have read and heard so much about in the past. The British government are within their rights in stifling competition, but they are not within their rights when they accuse us, the Canadian agriculturists, of a desire to sell diseased cattle to the British people.

Mr. BLAIN. Is it not a fact that the president of the Board of Agriculture in the old country has already stated publicly, and I think in a communication to the Minister of Agriculture that they did not continue the embargo because of a belief that there is any disease amongst Canadian cattle. That was stated in the Agricultural Committee by the minister this year.

Mr. BICKERDIKE. I think possibly the Minister of Agriculture will remember that the president of the Board of Agriculture did not make it quite clear that I had several letters from him which I would read to the House if the weather were not so hot. He claimed that he believed that we had got rid of disease and I have asked him: If we have no longer any disease in Canada why not remove the embargo? His reply was that he felt they could not very well remove the embargo at the present moment without doing the same for the United States, that it would be giving a preference to Canada that they could not give to the United States. The mother country, as my good friend knows, occasionally does a little flirting with Uncle Sam, and this is one of these occasions. On many occasions, as my hon. friend knows as well as I do, there is considerable flirtation going on and Canada provides the band. We pay the piper and the music comes high. I claim that it is a wrong done to this country quite in contravention of that boasted system of British fair-play.

There are many in Canada, including myself, who say if they wish to establish protection in England 'long may it remain if only a valid reason is given for it. Yet, why should the mother country stigmatize our cattle as unhealthy, and perpetuate what they know was an error from the beginning?

Mr. BERGERON. Are there any diseased cattle in the United States?

Mr. BICKERDIKE. There were at the time, but there are none in the western states now. There were some in the eastern states last year, but that was the foot and mouth disease, a different matter altogether.

Mr. BERGERON. I ask this because by our quarantine arrangements American cattle could come into this country unimpeded, and as the British government could not distinguish the American from the Canadian

Mr. BICKERDIKE.

cattle that might have been the reason for the embargo.

Mr. BICKERDIKE. At that time there were no American cattle coming through Canada. Fortunately, such are the attractions of the country and the great possibilities of its development, that we have not suffered so much in our immigration as we might have done by the unjust aspersion thrown on the healthfulness of our herds and the safety of stock raising in a country where no cattle plague exists or can be introduced, or exist if the same vigilance is exercised in administering the quarantine in the future as has been exercised in past years, as no doubt will be the case. Surely the time has come when we may expect, as a matter of simple justice that this embargo will be removed, and our live stock allowed entry to any market in the British empire—wherever the Union Jack flies—and all doubts be removed from the minds of agriculturists who would seek homes in Canada if they were assured that no ruinous cattle disease exists or can exist in the vast country, which in time, and a short time too, will not only supply grain, but animal food, and animal products and gold sufficient for a large portion of the inhabitants of the world.

Is there anything unfair in what we ask? The British government says: You have disease. I shall show you how this came about. We have proved to them that we have no disease, and yet our cattle are shut out. While that little flirtation is going with the United States they do not want to allow our cattle to come in again because they are afraid of giving some slight offence to our neighbours to the south. I think that I know old John Bull probably as well as any other member in this House. I have been doing business with him for over thirty years, and I would venture to say that there is not a particle of sentiment in any of his dealings. John Bull would buy from a Hottenfot just as readily as from loya! Canada. With him, it is a well laid down principle that 'business is business,' this principle underlies all his transactions and always prevails.

I think it would be well, if the House will permit me to give a short history—and it must necessarily be very short—of what led up to the embargo, and to show the effect it has had on this country. The rapid development of the export live stock trade from the United States and Canada to Britain in the early seventies, naturally gave rise to considerable alarm among the live stock breeders, especially on some sections of England and Ireland, lest the trans-Atlantic competitors should render home production unprofitable, but more especially did the British farmer fear as well he might the introduction of contagious diseases, in which he had very bit-