

Mr. RALSTON: Against the release of the butter for from four to six weeks.

Mr. MATTHEWS: The market was advancing all the time when the butter was released. Certainly I cannot see any disadvantage to the butter market through the small amount that came.

Mr. RALSTON: I merely point it out to the minister. I suppose he will agree that neither he nor I would understand the situation in regard to the market as well as the dairymen's association and the farmers' associations.

Mr. MATTHEWS: Well, I think my hon. friend and I are both capable of reading the quotations in the press and seeing what the price is.

Mr. RALSTON: I am pointing out that there must be some mistake, because this is a responsible gentleman and he says the creameries have lost two cents a pound on butter sold this week. I am quite willing to accept my hon. friend's invitation and discuss the matter with him privately, and I do not mind showing him the letter.

Mr. MATTHEWS: I think Nova Scotia produces perhaps one third of the butter it uses?

Mr. RALSTON: I would think so.

Mr. GOTT: Will the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid), the jumping jack of the house—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. GOTT:—repeat the remark he made a while ago?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Smith, Cumberland): Order.

Mr. GOTT: He made a remark and then ran to cover.

Mr. REID: I think the hon. member made a very insulting remark to me, and I have always been able to take care of myself.

Mr. GOTT: I made no remark to the hon. member whatsoever.

Mr. REID: Then if I made any remark I am glad to withdraw it.

The case I wish to discuss is in connection with a fishing boat registered part time in the United States, and then coming into Canada. Taking it up after complaint had been made to me, customs officials in Vancouver said

the boat could come in at any time without duty being paid. It had paid duty a number of years ago, but for the past few years it has been coming in without paying any duty. One of the owners, who lives in the United States, is registered as a United States citizen; the other owner is a Canadian, though I understand that both owners were born in Canada.

I should like to ask the minister, and perhaps his officers can give me the information, whether a ship going back and forth is allowed to do so without paying the customs dues. One officer claims that a ship registered in Canada which leaves its port and becomes registered in a foreign country ceases to be of Canadian registry, and that on reentering for fishing purposes it must pay the dues over again. This has been going on for a number of years.

Mr. MATTHEWS: It must be quite obvious to the hon. member that I would not have the information as to a certain ship on the Pacific, but if he will be good enough to give me full particulars I shall be glad to go into the matter for him.

Mr. RALSTON: I think this is the answer to what my hon. friend the minister said with regard to butter prices, and he can have this information to aid him when he is looking into the matter. All last year butter fat prices averaged only about 21 cents. Only during the last couple of months have fat prices reached a point where the farmers can break even. Last month's cream price was 25 cents, while this month the price has been 28 cents. They were hoping to maintain prices at from 28 cents to 30 cents until the grass season started. Summing that up, I take it that what happened was that when prices started to advance to where the farmer could break even he found the New Zealand butter coming in on him. That is the complaint.

Mr. MATTHEWS: That may be so, but after the fact became known that the New Zealand butter was coming in the price went up in Montreal from 26½ cents to 30 cents. The price was not depressed.

Mr. BENNETT: It is 29 cents now.

Mr. RALSTON: They say it did depress the price.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Smith, Cumberland): Shall the item carry?

Mr. CASGRAIN: I think the information that has been requested by the hon. member