

lasting gratitude to the Government for was an experiment which the Government abandoned at the end of twelve months. The hon. gentleman has told us what the cheese industry owed to the Government, and said that the butter industry was likely to owe just as much to the Government in the future. So far as that is concerned, I felt inclined to agree with the hon. gentleman. What I wish to point out is that by entering the field of mercantile operations for the purchase of these articles, the Government have never conferred any advantage or benefit upon the agricultural population of this country. Why, Sir, how came these cheese manufacturing industries into Canada? Cheese-making in this sense was introduced in the west by certain parties who came from the state of New York, who had adopted the uniform and scientific method of making cheese, a knowledge of which method has extended over the whole country. The Government might assist in the educating process, but to enter upon the market and to undertake to act as guardian to the agricultural population of this country is another and very different thing. One would suppose, to hear the speech of the hon. Secretary of State, that the Government had issued a commission in lunacy to take charge of all the farms of this country, because those who have conducted them are no longer competent to manage their own business or conduct their own affairs. I deny that proposition. I say that what the agricultural population, in this respect, want to-day is to be released from the burdens the Government has imposed upon them. Give them a free field and a fair opportunity in the struggle of life with the rest of the people. That has not been done; and when the Government go into the market and bid against the grocery man who was buying butter at the village corner, and profess to promote the interests of the farmer by selling at a loss what they have bought in the English market, they were doing what it was none of their business to do, and what they never could do to advantage. They might as well issue a commission to take charge of the markets of this town, and do all the purchasing for all the people as to undertake what they did undertake in relation to this butter industry. Well, Sir, I congratulate them. They have learned by one year's experience that what they did was not the business of a government, that they neither helped themselves nor helped the agricultural population of this country by the undertaking. That being so, all we have to say with regard to this item is, that the adventure was a foolish one, that it turned out as every man of experience ought to have believed from the outset that it would turn out, and that the people, if they are thankful to the Government at all, are thankful that their folly did not carry them further; that the losses have not been larger than they have been

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell).

in the operation. We are glad to know that the experiment is not to be repeated, and that the Government are satisfied with twelve months' experience in the matter.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat gave a history of the beginning of the cheese trade in Canada, but, from my information, he is entirely wrong in his facts. I heard it distinctly stated, not ten days ago, by Senator Reed, of Belleville, that he exported the first cheese ever exported from Canada; that he gave \$100 to establish a cheese factory in the Belleville district, which was the first factory in the country. The same gentleman was one of five, I think he said, who gave \$100 apiece for the purpose of employing a man to come amongst them and educate the people how to make cheese. At first the industry depended altogether upon private individuals, and it was not until some time later that the Ontario Government took up the matter and granted subsidies to supplement the efforts of private individuals. Now, it is all right for the Ontario Government to do this, but according to the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills), when the Dominion Government does the same thing, it is all wrong.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell.) I did not say that.

Mr. SPROULE. That is the natural assumption from the hon. gentleman's arguments. Now, how is it that cheese has attained the position it occupies in the English market to-day. Is it not owing to the fact that an educational process has been going on, and that the Provincial Government and the Dominion Government have been granting assistance, pecuniary and otherwise, to develop that industry. Now, if the Dominion Government try to do the same thing for butter, according to hon. gentlemen opposite, they must be wrong.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell.) It is not the same thing for butter. To undertake to become butter merchants is a different thing to assisting the manufacture of butter.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman has condemned the action of the Government, although he asks, What evidence have we that there is any good done? Does not that letter which was read from the wholesale merchant in England, show that something is being done? He says in that letter that the last consignment is better than the previous one, and, if we continue to send them butter like that, we will ruin the Danish butter-makers very hard. Is not that what we want to do? Although the experiment has only been tried for less than one year, we still have proof that it has been successful. Then, it was said that we have lost money on the transaction. Well, who got that money? Why, it was the Canadian farmer, according to what the hon. gentleman said a few moments ago. If the Can-