

beginning of these remarks in introducing these letters :

The present Government is willing to hear you, and willing to protect you.

And then he goes on to make a very important statement.

At the present time there is a disease breaking up near Fort Benton, Mont. The nature of this disease is unknown to stockmen, but it threatens absolute destruction to many thousand head.

And again :

Why cannot there be some plan suggested that will protect our Canadian ranges or our own citizens, instead of allowing the American stockmen to monopolize the country and give nothing in return? It certainly will hurt the country and tend to depopulate it.

We are, in politics, Liberals and free traders, so long as we get the equivalent in return for what we give ; but in this important matter we get nothing.

Politics should have nothing to do with so important a matter as this, and every right-thinking person whom it may concern, should do something to assist the Government in adjusting the measure so that it may be an everlasting benefit to ourselves.

Should the Government remove the quarantine? The duty should be raised to 40 per cent to all American stockmen, who are sure to flood the country with their countless thousands of horned cattle, horses and sheep, if once the quarantine is removed in the British North-west Territories. But the actual Canadian citizen who is actually engaged in stock-raising and is helping to build up the country, should be privileged to get his young cattle in the United States from parts where disease is not known, free from duty.

And he closes with these words :

This is one way out, where the actual Canadian citizen will have protection, and in a very few years will be able to compete successfully with other stockmen. On the other hand, if he has no protection, he will be completely crushed out of business by the wealthy American stockmen.

Now, that is from a man as far west as Medicine Hat. I have here a communication from Parkbeg which, as hon. members know, is considerably east of Maple Creek :

Dear Sir,—Many thanks for your prompt attention in the matter of reports. I would like to call your attention to—but, doubtless, it has been done by others—that of the agreement made by Hon. Mr. Fisher, the Minister of Agriculture, and the United States Secretary of Agriculture, relating to the quarantine of animals under the heading of "breeding cattle, &c." It says : cattle for feeding or stock ranches must be accompanied by a certificate showing that they are free from any contagious disease. If I understand this rightly, the United States cattle in limitless numbers may be fed in Canadian pastures. This, to my mind, is unfair and detrimental to western stock-raisers, and certainly ought to be amended. Some one should see to it. I know of no better man than the member elect.

Yours respectfully.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that these communications establish that there is uneasiness in regard to these quarantine regulations, and therefore I think it is desirable

that the papers that I ask for in this motion should be brought down, explaining the changes in these regulations. I further ask for "particulars of changes made at each station in the personnel of the officers employed to carry out the quarantine regulations." I will not dwell at any length on my reason for asking for this list. Hon. members will easily surmise why I wish this information, but I have no desire to divert the attention of the House from the subject which is the pressing subject in regard to these regulations that is before the House and the country, viz., whether the Minister of Agriculture has not been a little precipitate in having the Government pass the Order in Council that has been passed, and whether he should not consider the rescinding of these regulations, or, at least, the making of inquiries with a view to seeing whether it is not his duty to rescind them, in order to protect our stockmen in Assiniboia and other parts of the west.

Mr. LISTER. I am sure we all must regret the absence of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) when a somewhat important motion, as this is, is brought up for discussion before the House. I do not agree with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) who has just spoken. I think the Government is entitled to the thanks of the stockmen of Canada and of the country at large for the steps they have taken to facilitate the sale and transportation of stock from Canada to the United States and from that country to Canada. My hon. friend (Mr. Davin) is evidently not familiar with the facts. He has spoken from a brief furnished to him by gentlemen who seem to imagine that these new regulations will have the effect of destroying the industry in the North-west. But, Sir, a moment's consideration must satisfy you that such cannot be the case. The hon. gentleman surely knows that cattle coming into Canada, whether into the older provinces or the North-west Territories, must pay a duty ; and he knows that if these cattle are transported again to the United States they are met at the boundary line, and must pay duty on going back. So that, so far as the fear of cattle being brought into Canada to compete with the Canadian producer of cattle in the United States market or any other market is concerned, it is without foundation. I know as a fact, at least I believe, that the hon. gentleman who occupied the position now held by the Minister of Agriculture, made efforts to bring about the simplification of the quarantine regulations between this country and the United States, regulations which every person at all familiar with the trade knows where such an obstruction as to make it impossible to deal in cattle between the two countries. Why, Sir, what was the fact? While we sent large numbers of sheep to the United States, we were unable to export cattle. Why? Because we were met