

The Address—Mr. Armstrong (Lambton)

"This blow comes at a particularly bad time for the dairy industry," Mr. Johnston declared. "Just when the dairymen have become accustomed to overcoming the conditions caused by our Canadian winters and have been keeping dairy production up to the required limit, the government lowers the bars to Australian and New Zealand butter. Reducing the duty on this butter to one cent per pound has made it possible for the Australian farmers to ship butter here in competition with our own dairymen.

Because of the mild climate Australian butter can be produced cheaper at this time of the year than it can be produced under Canadian winter conditions. The government at Ottawa should have given some consideration to the position of the Canadian dairymen before they passed the trade pact. Canadian dairymen have been producing sufficient butter to supply the Canadian markets even during the winter months.

Is that not a sufficient answer to the hon. gentleman who interrupted with the observation that the 10,000,000 pounds was in his estimation much too small a quantity to form a reserve in Canada?

There was no reason to bring Australian butter here at all. Everyone recognizes the fact that our farming and dairy industries are most important to the development of the Dominion, and anything which affects these will produce a corresponding effect on the whole Dominion. The question was threshed out at the convention of the Canadian Creamerymen's Association, held in Toronto a month or so ago, and a resolution was passed asking the government to consult with the dairymen's organizations before taking any steps to have Australian butter brought here.

Mr. Johnston said further, "The attention of the government was called to the disastrous effects the lowering of the duty on butter would have, but they paid no attention to this." Mr. Johnston stated that 17,000 boxes of butter are already on the way to Canada, or about 850,000 pounds. This butter can be sold wholesale at 40 cents per pound, while Canadian butter is selling at 46 cents wholesale. It cannot be produced under Canadian winter conditions to sell for less than the present prevailing price, it was stated. The importation of the Australian product will have a tendency to kill the dairy industry in Canada, Mr. Johnston feared.

Now let us consider for a moment whether or not the treaties with France and other countries have been of very great benefit to Canada. The following figures give the imports from France into Canada and the exports from this country to France in the last three or four years:

Imports from France	Year	Amount
	1923	\$14,000,000
	1924	\$17,000,000
	1925	\$18,000,000
Exports to France	Year	Amount
	1923	\$17,000,000
	1924	\$12,000,000
	1925	\$11,000,000

Now let us examine the figures of trade between Italy and Canada, which will show that a similar condition exists.

[Mr. J. E. Armstrong.]

Imports from Italy	Year	Amount
	1923	\$1,814,000
	1924	\$1,814,000
	1925	\$2,435,000
Exports to Italy	Year	Amount
	1923	\$18,000,000
	1924	\$14,000,000
	1925	\$10,000,000

This goes to show that the treaties we have entered into with foreign countries have not been productive of very great benefit to this Dominion. On the contrary the very opposite has been the case.

Now, let me occupy a few minutes in placing before the House some of the statements made by the Minister of Finance, who is apparently hiding behind the dairy commissioner. The statements in question are to be found at page 828 of Hansard:

Mr. Tolmie: May I ask my hon. friend a question? With the seasons opposite in Australia as compared with Canada, does my hon. friend think it is fair to have grass butter produced south of the equator coming into competition with butter produced in western Canada, in the middle of the winter?

Mr. Robb: I do not like to get into a controversy with my hon. friend, who is an expert agriculturist, but I am willing to take the judgment of the dairy commissioner of Canada who at one time was dairy commissioner of New Zealand. The judgment of that gentleman is that the quality of Canadian butter will be improved in the world's markets if, instead of storing up our butter, we ship it to the markets of the world in good fresh condition. The result of that policy is evident in the fact that during this year Canada won several prizes in the London, England, show competing against the products of New Zealand and Australia. Canada's butter now ranks high in that market, and Canada's butter will be able to compete there.

I fancy that the 250,000 dairymen in Canada will most severely criticize and denounce that statement by the dairy commissioner as one that is not in the best interests of the industry with which they are identified.

Mr. BALDWIN: Does the hon. member know that the price of butter has been higher during the past eight months than in any corresponding period for six years? Also how much would he like the consumer of this country to have to pay for butter, the present price being from 45 to 50 cents a pound?

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): In answer to the hon. gentleman I can only say that the dairy industry is only one industry in this country that should be protected. If it and the other industries in the Dominion were properly protected the labour men would have plenty of work and plenty of money wherewith to buy butter. That is my answer. A few cents is nothing to the man who is at work and in receipt of good wages. It is a very different thing when he is out of employment, and walking the streets with empty pockets. Why should the dairymen of Can-