

week to week during the summer as well as the winter. If this were done with reasonable care, we should soon enjoy a reputation for butter equal to that of any other country.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The Government have no apology to make for the course they have adopted in connection with this matter. The House, I am sure, is well seized of the importance of cultivating and improving the butter interest of Canada. I need not now call the attention of the House to the fact that one of the most important items of export at this time is cheese. The export of cheese from this country has risen from six and a quarter millions of a few years ago to no less than \$15,000,000 last year.

Mr. SCRIVER. Without any help from the Government.

Mr. MONTAGUE. My hon. friend is quite wrong in that, because this has been achieved with the help not only of this Government alone but of the provincial governments as well, who, in conjunction with this Government, have employed experts for the purpose of assisting the cheese industry all over the country. Now, with regard to the cheese industry, we have reached the point when the cheese export of Canada actually represents half the total imports into the British market; and we are increasing our exports so rapidly that we have become our own competitors in that market. Consequently we had better look to a new dairy product which, at the present time we export to a very limited extent indeed. The importation of butter into Britain represents, I believe, something like \$60,000,000 a year. At the present time that market is monopolized almost entirely by France, Denmark, Australia and Sweden, while Canada is sending only about 1 per cent of the total importation into the British market. What is the reason? The reason is that while the butter made in the private dairies in Canada is, to a large extent, excellent butter, it does not possess the uniformity necessary to gain a foothold in so conservative a market as that of Great Britain, nor have we had the means of putting it upon the British market in good condition. We have secured our cheese market and have given our cheese an excellent reputation by sending it out in small samples at the Colonial Exhibition, by distributing it among many dealers in Great Britain and by putting it prominently before the world at the World's Fair; and we have held our place and maintained the price of our goods notwithstanding the keen competition that has existed during the past year. I want to say to the hon. gentleman that the Government are justified in its action with regard to the butter industry by the history of other countries. My hon. friend has referred to Denmark as a country that has held its own in the market while it has done nothing for

Mr. SPROULE.

the purpose of encouraging the industry. My information as to Denmark is very different from that of my hon. friend. I understand that Denmark took great pains, by appointing a commission of experts, to assist in the development of the industry, and employed a commissioner to remain in Great Britain for the purpose of placing Danish butter upon the English market. But we do not need to go to Denmark for a precedent in this regard. The Australian colonies are, at the present time, supplying 8 or 10 per cent of the total importation of butter into the British market. What has enabled them to do that? A few years ago Great Britain was importing from Australia only a very few thousand dollars worth of butter. But the Australian colonies adopted a policy of encouraging in every possible way the export of butter to Great Britain. They gave a bonus and this House will probably be surprised to know that that bonus was 2 cents per pound if the butter brought 16 cents in the English market, and up to 6 cents per pound if it brought 24 cents per pound. In one year—I think the dairy commissioner will bear me out—no less than \$254,000 was paid by Australia as bonus upon butter shipped to Great Britain. And, notwithstanding the attack upon the system that has been made by my hon. friend from Huron (Mr. McMillan), we find that we have to compete in Great Britain with the finest butter from the Australian colonies and from other countries that have spent large sums of money in promoting shipments and the sale of butter in Great Britain. Now as to the results. It was stated that very little money would be lost in this experiment. The butter was purchased from Canadian creameries at 20 cents per pound. All of it that passed inspection at Montreal was sent to the markets of Europe, and what was not deemed not quite up to the standard for shipment to Europe was sold at Montreal at 21 cents per pound. When the two sides of the account are balanced, it will be found that we have lost only a small sum in doing this.

Mr. SCRIVER. Is it not 4 cents per pound?

Mr. MONTAGUE. There were 915 packages of 56 pounds each, and after meeting all the expenses of freight, inspection and everything else, the whole item asked for is only \$3,000, which will more than cover the expense. But the question for this House to consider is this—Have we met the requirements and requests of the dairy interests of Canada, and, in the second place have we done any good to the industry on the British market. I have no hesitation in answering these questions in the affirmative. Were my hon. friend from Huron and the other gentleman opposed to the carrying out of this experiment aware that the Government were only following out, not only the