

preference with New Zealand it is 3 cents. My hon. friend's query raises a budget question which I am sure he does not want to enter into now. Of course if one believes unreservedly in protection to an old industry like dairying one can easily find an argument for raising the duty from 4 cents to 8 cents to correspond with the duty against us going into the United States. The suggestion has its attractions but not to the consumer in Canada.

Mr. DOUCET: I realize that the question does raise the subject of protection and I do not expect the minister to give a definite opinion this evening. But he might influence his colleagues into making a revision of the tariff when the proper time comes.

Mr. MARTELL: Does the hon. gentleman want the fishermen who are not farmers in his county to pay a duty on butter?

Mr. DOUCET: We are not discussing fish now; the subject is butter. It is as important to this industry to have protection as it is to make provision for dead insects as we have been doing all afternoon. In connection with this industry, will the minister tell the committee what his department has been doing in the matter of contagious abortion?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: That comes under the Health of Animals branch. I was reading an interesting bulletin on the subject during the dinner recess, but I do not think we could very well discuss it at the present stage.

Mr. DOUCET: I thought it could very well be discussed under this head because it has everything to do with the conduct of an important industry in this country.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The disease is certainly contagious and it is incomprehensible except to the initiated. However, it comes under another vote.

Mr. McQUARRIE: We have been told to-night that the trouble in connection with the dairy industry is the inadequacy of the market for butter and cheese and other dairy products produced in western Canada. A good deal of Alberta butter and cheese go into British Columbia and I presume that if there were a greater market in that province for these articles the province of Alberta would profit. At present, I understand, a considerable quantity of butter and cheese, and other dairy products as well, are imported into British Columbia from the United States, and if that importation could be stopped it would give the Alberta and British Columbia people a better market.

The present situation is a most unfair one as the minister must realize. He said that if any one wished to preach the doctrine of protection this was a good argument. Well, obviously there is a good argument in the inequality of tariff as between Canada and the United States on dairy and other products.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We all recognize that.

Mr. McQUARRIE: It would seem to me that the proper thing for Canada to do would be to raise its tariff. We could do that even if we were not able to negotiate with the United States, which does not seem to be possible on the minister's statement. Indeed, it might not perhaps be deemed advisable in some quarters. But if it is not possible to negotiate a reciprocity agreement with the United States surely we can increase our own tariff and so place this country on an equality with the people south of us.

Mr. MARTELL: Is my hon. and personal friend in favour of reciprocity with the United States?

Mr. McQUARRIE: The matter has been discussed many times in our province and I take it that the attitude of the people of British Columbia would be of more interest to hon. gentlemen than the personal opinion of any member of this House.

Mr. MARTELL: I have every respect for my hon. friend, though.

Mr. McQUARRIE: I am glad to hear that; the hon. member for Hants is always very kind. I have no objection to giving my own personal opinion on the subject if it will interest the committee. I do not think that there should be any general reciprocity with the United States, but we should have a better tariff arrangement which would place us on an equality with that country, and if that can be arranged by negotiation, well and good. I would favour such an arrangement with regard to certain products such as butter and other dairy products and also eggs. The subject of eggs is a very serious one just now owing to the fact that the market in British Columbia is in very poor condition; in fact it is so bad that a great many of those who have gone into the poultry business are giving it up altogether. If my hon. friend (Mr. Martell) has been keeping in touch with the western newspapers, as I have no doubt he has, see-