

position hon. gentlemen have taken in declaring that the sympathy of the English people has been such as to find a market for the people of Canada when in fact this was the result of their own enterprise, energy and skill, and of that element which is seldom found in any country, and which is especially found in the people of Canada, their adaptability to conditions, and their readiness to take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves. To belittle them in the sense in which they have been belittled does not become any party in this country, especially when the statements that they make are unfounded in fact and unfounded in experience. The hon. Minister of Customs made a speech as to the effect of this policy, and I hope the House will bear with me while I read a portion of it, because it is a very important utterance, as are the utterances of every minister in this House. It has a special weight and a special significance. I, therefore, with the permission of the House, will read what the hon. Minister of Customs had to say of the preference that was so willingly granted, the preference for which we got nothing in return. He is showing the advantages that will arise from it, on grounds of sentiment and in his speech he says :

And what has been the result? Why, Sir, I venture to say that nothing has ever transpired in the history of Canada that has touched the English heart so much as this resolution, which is denounced by the hon. gentleman. . . . But I venture to say that by this act the heart of the English people has been touched, their sympathy has been enlisted, and I make bold to say that to-day any statesman from Canada—

Any statesman from Canada, mark you, Mr. Speaker.

—going over there would be able to reach the ready ear of the Englishman with the arguments that can be advanced on our side of any question and that they might yield concessions to this country in matters of trade because of the effect which has been produced by this resolution. Who can say if the Minister of Agriculture were to go over there and speak to the statesmen of that country with reference to the legislation placing an embargo upon Canadian cattle he would not be in a stronger position, that he would not be more readily listened to than he would have been before this resolution was introduced?

Well, now, this statesman is not in his place to-night to answer for the speech and the pledge of the hon. Minister of Customs, and I would like to ask that statesman, and to ask hon. gentlemen opposite, how far that touching resolution that has reached the English heart has inured to the benefit of the people of Canada? Has that statesman gone over and demanded as a quid pro quo—not as a quid pro quo, but as the justice due to Canada, and which has never been given—the removal of the embargo? The people of England declare that they have no protection, but they found a system of the strongest protection that

Mr. CLANCY.

one could possibly think of inventing under the pretense that Canadian herds were diseased, and that, therefore, they would not let them in. They were forced, as the hon. leader of the opposition stated more than once in the House, and as the hon. Minister of Agriculture was forced to admit himself, that there was no disease in Canadian herds. What was the position that was taken? Notwithstanding that it was put beyond the possibility of doubt that Canadian herds were not diseased, that they might have been permitted to be brought into England with safety, they still kept up their embargo, notwithstanding that the Scotch farmers were urging that they should be allowed in. They would not let Canadian cattle come into England, not because they were diseased, but simply because it was impossible to get the farmers of Great Britain to allow them to come in, and this was the means of keeping them out. What has the hon. Minister of Agriculture done in reference to the English heart being touched? Has he gone over and asked for the removal of this restriction? Is there any member of the government who is prepared to answer that? Perhaps I may ask the hon. Minister of Finance, who is always ready to answer reasonable questions, and I think this is a reasonable question. I am going to ask the hon. Minister of Finance if any effort has ever been made, since the passing of that resolution, since the introduction of the tariff giving the preference entirely to Great Britain, to get the embargo removed from Canadian cattle. Can my hon. friend inform me?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I hope my hon. friend (Mr. Clancy) is not asking for an answer. Dozens of times this evening he has put his arguments into the form of a question and asked for an answer when I did not think it was expected. I would prefer that he would ask the question when the hon. Minister of Agriculture is in his place.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. Minister of Agriculture is never here.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes, more frequently than the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has been here.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, I have been here for the last week.

Mr. CLANCY. I can tell my hon. friend that I do not think he is quite fair.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I think so.

Mr. CLANCY. Is it possible that upon a question of such great magnitude, a question that affects such a large class of the people, a question that was agitated so much by hon. gentlemen opposite, who charged the Conservative party with a