

understanding on the part of consumers abroad, be placed on a level with a lower grade. Rather, I think that the people throughout the country should be induced to make better butter to come up to the standard of the product produced in the West.

Mr. BROWN: We have been talking a good deal about the place where they make good butter and I would suggest to the committee again a line of action that would encourage a greater production of this commodity where it is now being made. When we were discussing the experimental farms I referred to the supply of dairy cattle for the province of Manitoba. I have here a letter which I received from a stock raiser in Quebec, and I might briefly refer to the circumstances under which I came to get into communication with this gentleman. A number of farmers in my own district were anxious to get a carload of heifers for certain purposes they had in view and they instructed me to get in contact with the breeders in Quebec to see at what prices they could procure such animals as they wanted, namely, heifers of from one to two years old. The letter I have here throws a little light on the statement that has been made, that there is an abundant supply of dairy cattle in eastern Canada. This letter, two or three points in which are very significant, is as follows:

Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association,
Ayers Cliff, Quebec,
April 2, 1924.

Mr. J. L. Brown, M.P.,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,

Beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 31st ult. in reference to securing a carload of Ayrshire heifers for shipment to Manitoba.

In reply beg to state that any surplus supply of Ayrshire females is very limited not only in this district but all over this province. American buyers have been coming in here frequently during the past year and buying at prices that prove tempting to our breeders. This applies more to mature stock. As to "in calf" two-year old heifers, the supply will not meet the demand from the government for these heifers to form the heifer clubs being formed throughout this province and the Maritime provinces. We recently had a buyer from Truro, N.S., offering from \$150 to even \$200 for good two-year old heifers well along in calf for these heifer clubs, but he was unable to secure a carload either in this district or eastern Ontario, so did not buy.

It is our intention, just as soon as roads are suitable to travel, to endeavour to purchase for ourselves about 25 or 30 head of Ayrshire heifers of good dairy type between the ages of one and two years, breed them at about the age of 2 years and be prepared to meet this demand for "in calf" heifers a year from now. We anticipate having to pay fairly good prices for suitable stock but we feel assured that we can sell them at a fair profit over and above their keep next year.

With this in view, we believe that we could supply you a carload of select heifers between the ages of one year and two years of age, of good dairy type,

well developed and suitable for the purpose you mention for an average of about \$100 each loaded on car, all of course to be tested for T.B. by a federal veterinary. It is possible that the average price might be slightly less, but we doubt if very much less owing to the excessive demand at the present time for good breeding stock.

If you desire we can inform you a little more definitely as to this about the latter part of this month.

Respectfully yours,

The foregoing letter clearly disposes of the contention that there is a supply in the East of the kind of cattle which the people in the West require, and it is an additional argument why we should have access to that source of supply which I brought to the attention of the committee a few nights ago, the state of Wisconsin. If I were making a speech on the desirability of closer trade relations with the United States I might very properly point out that it would be to the advantage of every one if the Americans in the New England states were permitted to do freely what this writer says that they are actually doing now, namely, coming in and buying stock, and if we on the other hand had access to the source of supply that is nearest to us. I would impress this matter upon the minister and the government as well as upon the gentlemen who compose the official opposition.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: No hope.

Mr. BROWN: I will not say it is hopeless; perhaps the minister is more pessimistic than I am. I should like to impress upon the official opposition that this is a demand from the West. The dairy industry is of importance and increasing importance, and the people there are very anxious to get, not a few years after this, but immediately, a big supply of dairy cows. I have testimony here that these are not to be secured in eastern Canada at prices that will enable us to purchase them, and other evidence can be furnished. I know it is true that a government official was sent into the state of Wisconsin to make inquiries regarding dairy cattle. It is possible to find the things you want to find if you want to find them, and it is possible not to find them if you go with the intention, in the first place, of keeping your eyes shut. How far that was the case I am not prepared to say, but I call these facts to the attention of the committee. It is a matter of immediate and urgent necessity that the farmers of Manitoba should have a supply of dairy cattle.

Mr. SPENCE: My hon. friend stated that the Americans were buying cattle in Quebec and taking them to the New England states.

Mr. BROWN: That is the statement in this letter.