

THE ARGUMENTS PRESENTED.

Mr. Grant, President of the Montreal Butter and Cheese Association, in introducing the deputation, pointed out that farmers would make \$1,000,000 extra profit if there was a proper refrigerator service to Britain.

Mr. D. M. Macpherson, in supporting the petition of the deputation, showed that they had to make cheese firmer and drier than otherwise necessary in order to meet the unfavorable conditions of transport, and this entailed the use of more milk than would be necessary if we had cold storage. Notwithstanding this precaution, cheese loses value on account of heat in transit. The profit of the producer is reduced, and this has a tendency to restrict production. Cold storage would tend to increase the value of the product by making more of the milk. With proper cold storage Canada could compete successfully with Australia, Argentina, or any other country. The production would increase, and instead of shipping one million Canada would soon ship ten millions. But cold storage on the ocean was no use without cold storage on the land. If the Government stepped in with help the enterprises presently aided would support themselves in a few years, and in a few years also competition would force public carriers to supply these conditions to farmers.

Mr. George Sandfield Macdonald said the position of the farmers was this, that the Government was not in possession of the facts necessary for a sound conclusion on the matter, and therefore should get them and lay them before the people before attempting to reach a conclusion. He pointed out what enormous strides Australia, New Zealand, and Argentina had made in the English markets, and urged that whatever was done to improve the service to Britain, facilities should be granted to Canadian producers equal to those which the ocean steamship systems of other countries grant to their producers.

Mr. John McKergow suggested that the Government should grant a bonus of \$200,000 for a weekly service, or \$100,000 for a fortnightly service, to the company which would first give a refrigerator system to London, Liverpool, and Bristol.

Mr. J. Lockie Wilson said that the farmers protested against granting any such amount as the proposed sum of \$750,000 to a fast passenger and mail service. They wanted a thorough investigation into the transportation systems of other countries. They wanted this \$750,000 scheme converted into a freight service, with cold storage system and bonuses to railways, if need

be, and they wanted the rates lowered in accordance with the subsidies.

The other members of the deputation also spoke strongly in favor of such a service, as the only way by which Canada could compete with Australia, Argentina, and other countries.

THE PREMIER'S REPLY.

Mr. Laurier, in reply, said that the problem before them was how the Government could help the cheap transportation of perishable goods to their market in Britain. He was not sure that the task was without complication, but he promised that the Government would deal with the problem immediately, to the best of their ability. He pointed out that the late Government had invited tenders for a fast passenger and mail service. The problem now was whether they should go on as the late Government had done or discard that scheme and seek another, or combine it with a cold storage scheme. Cold storage they must have at once, and if it could not be had with the present scheme they must look elsewhere.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE'S REPLY.

Mr. Fisher received a particularly warm welcome when he rose in response to calls from the deputation. He said that he was able to appreciate from experience the needs of the country in the line of cold storage. He sympathized fully with the deputation, and was glad to find from a number of conversations, and also from the Premier's remarks at this meeting, that cold storage would soon be supplied to the farmers. The low price of Canadian butter in England was due, not to its manufacture, but to the difference in the method of marketing it. During the present season the Government, through Professor Robertson, had made arrangements for cold storage in two vessels of the Elder-Dempster line. This morning he saw the agents of the line and asked them to provide additional insulated compartments, because the amount provided under the original contract was insufficient to meet the demands of the trade. He was glad to hear Mr. Dunlop's remarks about the fruit trade, because there was room for great improvement. The indications were that there would be a large crop of apples in Canada and a poor crop in England. He trusted that when the crop was ready some trial shipments might be made in cold storage so that the people might reap some of the benefit of that exceptional opportunity.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT'S REPLY.

Sir Richard Cartwright said that the first and chiefest object of the Government was to lessen