

Mr. MONTAGUE. Twenty-one and twenty-two and a half cents.

Mr. SCRIVER. The Secretary of State's expression of surprise that any one on this side should presume to question the propriety of the course which the Government has taken, is, under the circumstances, somewhat amusing. His own statement, made with the plausibility and eloquence which he has always at command, amply justifies those who found fault with the course taken by the Government with regard to the butter industry. That such a course was a mistaken one has been amply justified by the statement he has made himself. I do not hesitate to say that the experiment which the Government made of purchasing butter and sending it to the English market and selling it there was a huge blunder. There were very few such requests made, and his own admission, though he was wrong in his figures by $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound in the first place—shows that the result has been a great loss. This is one proof that it was a mistake, and a greater proof still, is his attempt to show that the result upon the butter trade has been beneficial. And what was the proof he gave us of that? A letter from one firm in Manchester—which is not our chief butter market by any means—that they had received about 200 tubs of butter which would run the Danish butter very hard. For my part, I am free to say that I was opposed to this policy on the part of the Government, in the first place, and I wondered at the time that our dairy commissioner, whose talent and judgment in regard to such matters I have often admired, should adopt such a course. For once in his life, I feel free to say, he has made a great mistake. And I would call the attention of the Secretary of State to the fact that the great exporters of butter in the city of Montreal are not buying for export in the face of the great experiment which the Government have made. The finest creamery butter in Montreal to-day is not being bought to any extent for export. And the prices are lamentably short of what they were for the same article last year. The finest creamery butter is now being sold in Montreal at 15 cents per pound.

Mr. CLEVELAND. No, no.

Mr. SCRIVER. I have a friend who is largely interested in the trade, one upon whose word I can depend; and he tells me that he has bought the finest creamery butter within the past week at 15 cents or $15\frac{1}{2}$ cents at the outside. I congratulate the Government on the fact that they have gone out of the butter business. At all events, while I am opposed to this system of bonussing any interest in the country, if the Government could be justified in doing anything that would help the butter business of the country, it would be the system

they propose to undertake of cold storage. I am in hopes that some benefits will be derived from that, but I hope this lesson which they have received in the butter business will satisfy them for all time to come.

Mr. CLEVELAND. I am very sorry the hon. gentleman opposite should feel so bad that some protection is afforded to the farmers. It is really too bad, these hon. gentlemen think, that the farmers should be protected. The hon. gentleman stated that fine creamery butter is selling in Montreal at 15 cents. I will not class that statement as it should be classed, but I can speak for our own factory, and I know that we are selling at from 19 to 25 cents.

An hon. MEMBER. Look at the quotations.

Mr. CLEVELAND. The figures of actual practice are better than a table of newspaper quotations. We do not take our information on this subject from the "Witness," or the "Herald," or anything of that kind.

An hon. MEMBER. Take the "Gazette."

Mr. CLEVELAND. No, nor the "Gazette." I am speaking of what we ourselves are doing. Hon. gentlemen speak as if they were sorry that the farmers should be encouraged in any way. I am not going to approve or justify the Government in bonussing butter, but I think they should be praised for their efforts to encourage and help the farmer by the establishment of cold storage, or in any way of that kind. The particular plan adopted may be wrong, but it is right that we should help the farmer and try to do for him what is being done for all other classes. I think the farmers are more with us than they are with our friends on the other side.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). The hon. Secretary of State has addressed to the House a speech not intended to afford information to the House, but a campaign speech for the purpose of telling the farmers of the country how much the Government have done for them, and what everlasting obligations they will be under to the Government for what it has accomplished on their behalf. Well, Sir, I was not a little amused with one feature of the speech of the hon. gentleman. He said: We have done very much for the farmers; we have gone into the business of buying butter, and, so the agricultural population can see how much more we are doing for them than the members of the Opposition are willing to do. But even while he was making this boastful statement to the House, he was obliged to inform the House that the business of acting as butter merchants on behalf of the whole country was so bad a business that the Government had abandoned it. That this work for which the agricultural population ought to be under ever-