

It has also been pointed out on other occasions that this increase of rates has nullified, to a large extent at least, the advantages we derived from the removal of the embargo upon our cattle entering British ports. It was pointed out this afternoon by the hon. member for Burrard (Mr. Clark) that this was a comparatively minor circumstance, that our true market lying, in his opinion, to the south, the effect of the Fordney tariff and of the special rates imposed on our live stock by the government of the United States was infinitely greater than the effect of any increase which has taken place in the cattle rates overseas. As I said before, I am inclined to agree with that statement to a certain extent; but I should like to point out that because our market to the south has been limited by the Fordney tariff, the imposition of increased rates upon our ocean-borne cattle has become of even greater moment than it would otherwise have been; that, barred as we are from exporting a great number of our stock to our natural market across the line, the development of other markets has become of far greater necessity than would have been the case had that tariff not been imposed.

I would point out another circumstance. This question was first considered and first pronounced upon in 1911, when a move was made by the Dominion government, in furtherance of an agreement arrived at with the United States, to bring about reciprocal trade relations between the two countries, and that had that agreement gone into effect we would not now be suffering to such a tremendous degree by the oppressive action of any ocean combine, if such there be.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Would the hon. gentleman just be a little closer in his reasoning and tell us how he comes to that conclusion?

Mr. SPEAKMAN: If the right hon. gentleman had waited I would have endeavoured to arrive at that conclusion by a logical course of reasoning.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I will wait.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I was stating that at that time the sympathy now so manifest was not apparent, and that while I cannot say that the hon. member for Burrard was himself guilty, the party of which he is a member was guilty of barring us from our natural market to the south. Later the United States erected the existing tariff barrier against us.

Mr. ARTHURS: Does the hon. gentleman say that that was in consequence of the action taken in 1911?

[Mr. Speakman.]

Mr. SPEAKMAN: If the hon. member will possess his soul in patience I shall answer a good many of these questions when I reach them in the course of my remarks without giving him the trouble of asking them now.

Mr. MEIGHEN: We are very patient.

Mr. CRERAR: That is a virtue.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I pointed out that since that time the United States had put in force a tariff against our stock which had resulted in a practical cessation of exportation to that country.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The hon. gentleman has missed an incident in the meantime, that after the rejection by this country of the reciprocity treaty the United States' first step was to put in a tariff on stock lower than that provided for in the treaty itself.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I think that is a statement of fact. But it hardly alters the position which I am about to assume, which is that some years after our rejection of the reciprocity treaty the United States raised the tariff to its present height, forming an effective bar to the movement of our stock across the line. It is purely a matter of conjecture and opinion to say what would have happened had reciprocity been agreed to by Canada. The advantages of that pact may have been so apparent to the United States that they would not have raised their tariff against our cattle.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): When we had reciprocity before with the United States who abrogated it?

Mr. SPEAKMAN: To what reciprocity arrangement does the hon. gentleman refer?

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): To the reciprocity agreement of 1854.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I am afraid I cannot follow my elderly friend back seventy years.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Just go back four years, then, when we had reciprocity in wheat and flour; who was it cancelled that arrangement?

Mr. SPEAKMAN: The right hon. gentleman is perfectly correct in his implication. I am merely stating a fact without implication, the fact that it is a pure matter of conjecture what would have been the result in later years had that reciprocity pact been agreed to by Canada, and pointing out that the sympathy now expressed would have been better shown at that time. I further pointed out the fact that through the action of the United States in raising the tariff against our cattle, our market overseas has become of greater importance to us than would otherwise have been the case,