

from evidence placed before them, that the creamery butter manufactured in Canada and sent to the English markets, suffer from an unfounded prejudice which has hitherto affected, materially the prices obtained, and consequently with the increase that this country should be making from year to year, in this important article of our dairy product, and therefore recommend that the Government will take such steps as will place our butter on the markets, in fair competition with all other butter imported into that country."—Carried.

I had no intention that the Government should take butter and ship it on their own account for the simple reason that I knew that in 1872-73, when they took butter, we were suffering in the English market from the butter that went from Canada. I knew from interviews I had in the old country that our butter only brought 16½ cents there at the time when creamery butter was bringing 20 cents. I knew from my visit to the old country that no individual trader can injure the credit of his country so much as when he ships his stuff under the wing, or in the name of the Government. Had I expected that the Government was going to purchase butter, I would never have seconded that resolution. My view was that the Government would take steps to have refrigerators fitted up in steamships, or to have ships fitted up in the same manner as they are fitted for bringing butter from Australia to Great Britain. I have always been opposed to a Government purchasing any goods and putting them on the market. We have men in the trade who are well posted and who know when to put their goods on the market, and if a bad article is put on the market by them, it does not injure the country to the same extent as when shipped by the Government. The Government should not take any steps for the purchasing and placing on the market of any article of farm produce. Denmark has never done anything of the kind, but has set us a noble example. The Danish Government give prizes for the best articles exhibited, and are very careful not to give the opportunity to manufacture specially for exhibits. With this view, they only give notice of the exhibition a week or two before it is held, so that there is no opportunity to prepare specially for it any small quantities of butter. I am decidedly opposed to this action of the Government, and I have always opposed it. I believe that we have men steadily engaged in the trade who are better capable of placing goods on the market than is the Government. I speak with a knowledge of what we suffered in 1872-73, because I interviewed some of the commission men in the old country myself, and both from these men and from the report submitted in June, 1873, it was evident that our butter was put on the market in very bad condition indeed. A question was put the other day with respect to the quantity of butter sold. We were told that a

certain number of packages had been taken over—I think 915 packages—but we were not told what was the weight of a package. I would ask now what was the weight of the package that the Government took over?

Mr. SPROULE. I have some recollection of the discussion which took place in committee, and I do not think that any course was indicated for the Government to take in placing Canadian butter upon the English market. The hon. gentleman says that our traders are quite capable of putting butter on the market just as well as the Government. How then has it happened that although they have been putting our butter on the English market for years, it has not gained the reputation there it should have. What were the instructions from the committee? They were that the Government be authorized to take such steps as they thought best to put Canadian butter on the market from time to time in proper condition. The manner of doing this was not indicated. I understood most distinctly that the Minister of Agriculture and the dairy commissioner were to exercise their own judgment as to the manner in which the butter should be placed on the market, provided it got there in good condition. I can see a great deal of wisdom in the Government overseeing the work. Why? They can select experts for the examination of the butter, so that nothing except the finest quality would be taken across. If a private individual were making the shipments on his own account, his object would be to sell his goods no matter what the quality might be; but the Government, whose only object is to obtain a good reputation for Canadian butter, will see that only the best quality is put on the English market. Every package sent over is examined carefully by an expert and put on the market when fresh. That plan must ultimately bring about a great deal of good to the Canadian products. Why do we suffer to-day on account of the small sales of our butter? Because the butter is held sometimes by the manufacturers but more frequently by the farmers for such long periods that, by the time it reaches the English markets, it is not the class of butter that they want, and it will not command the figures paid for Danish butter or for butter that is sent in fresh from other countries. There are certain times when people say it does not pay to send our butter, that is during the warm weather. But that is because we have no cold storage or refrigerator cars. But even if the Government were to provide both, very often the merchant would not send his butter to the English market, at this season, because of the low price ruling at that time. But I contend that our butter should be on the English market, in those months as well as in any other. I think it would be better if a little money was used to buy the best quality of butter and send it fresh from