

minister's department making any effort to get a share of this business?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Yes, I understand that some of our products are going to Japan. A very considerable number of cattle are being shipped there.

Mr. TOLMIE: Does the minister know what the export of butter to Japan was last year?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: No.

Mr. WHITE: Can the minister say what the importation of butter was last year?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: It was very, very small. We have not got the record of it. We have no report at all of those shipments. It was largely consumed in the British market. The export of Alberta butter increased last year by nearly 3,000,000 pounds. The proximity of Alberta to British Columbia permits it to compete with New Zealand butter.

Mr. COOTE: For the information of the hon. member for Wentworth (Mr. Wilson), could the minister tell us what the production of butter in the prairie provinces was for the last year?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Of creamery butter, Alberta produced 18,000,000 pounds, Saskatchewan 10,000,000 and Manitoba 10,000,000.

Mr. MARTELL: Can the minister tell us the position of the different creameries with regard to aid given to them? Are they all under the same equation as to aid given by the government?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: No. The only aid given has been to the experimental station at Finch. No assistance was given to the cheese or milk factories. That is a matter of provincial jurisdiction, excepting the experimental station at Finch.

Mr. MARTELL: What province is that in?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Ontario.

Mr. MARTELL: Why not give the same aid to experimental stations in other provinces?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I do not know what my predecessor had in mind, but I think he wanted the station near Ottawa where he could administer it conveniently and with the least possible expense. I suppose the idea was to try one out first. Then if that was successful and was an indication

[Mr. Tolmie.]

of the type of factory that was considered suitable in other parts of the country, it was thought possible that these people would take their cue from that and establish similar factories wherever it was practicable. But these are hard times for making capital investment, and the result is that people are slow to take advantage of the examples that have been set. We have in mind the establishment of another station. If my hon. friend has any thought that it would be acceptable in Nova Scotia, I am prepared to entertain it.

Mr. MARTELL: Perhaps you could make a success of it in Hants.

Mr. TOLMIE: Have you the figures for the importation of butter?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I have the figures for the amount of butter brought in from New Zealand and Australia. The quantity from New Zealand was 1,893,312 pounds and from Australia 13,758 pounds. One of the reasons for the difference is that New Zealand gets the benefit of the British preference, while we have no preferential arrangement with Australia.

Mr. WHITE: Are the figures for 1922 available?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We have them dating back to 1907. In 1922 the amount was from New Zealand, 2,268,760 pounds and, from Australia, 297,132 pounds. Nearly twice as much was brought in from New Zealand in 1922 as in 1923. We can go back further if my hon. friend desires it.

Mr. DOUCET: Do we require a certain grading when we buy foreign butter?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We do just as other countries do with respect to our butter; we buy butter on the grade of the country from which it comes; and we hope that when they get familiar with our grades they will buy the same way, but as yet they are not sufficiently familiar with it to accept our grade at the face value, as they probably will later on.

Mr. DOUCET: The minister said there was a preferential tariff on New Zealand butter coming in and that accounted for a larger importation from New Zealand than from Australia. Would it not be to the advantage of this country if the preference to New Zealand were wiped out in order to protect our own industry?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The regular duty on butter is 4 cents per pound and under the