

merce has placed in the hands of the public within the last few days, and which consists of a detailed statement of the trade of this country for the last twelve months. If my hon. friend will turn to page 3 of the report, he will find that in the last twelve months we brought into Canada 8,000,000 pounds of butter. Last year when someone made a statement of that kind, my hon. friend said: What is that? That is a mere bagatelle. Look at what we export. How much did we export during the last twelve months? We exported just 9,142,000 pounds of butter. Eight million pounds of Australian butter displaced in the Canadian market 8,000,000 pounds of Canadian butter and forced the dairy farmers of Canada to send their butter across to the markets of Europe.

Which is the best market for our produce? I ask a candid question. Will anyone answer? Is it here in Canada or in Europe? The home market is certainly our best market, our readiest and cheapest market. It saves us transportation, insurance, cost of commission on this side and across the water. Why not let the Canadian dairy farmer have the full benefit of his home market in respect of that commodity? I have no doubt my hon. friend will hear from the dairy associations in respect of this situation. I have had communications, not from the associations, but from individual dairy men. I know they are feeling the effect of that importation very seriously, and to me it appears to be a sort of trade outrage that we should allow Australia and New Zealand to ship 8,000,000 pounds of butter into this country, while our farmers are forced to export their butter to Great Britain in order to equalize the situation. Why not allow the Canadian farmer to supply our home demand with 8,000,000 pounds of Canadian butter and then we would have a surplus of only 1,000,000 pounds odd which we could send abroad. Would not that be good business? Is that not sound economics? Does that not appeal to the Minister of Agriculture as a pretty fair business arrangement? If it does not, let him consult his colleague in the government who sits behind him and I know he will commend the justice and wisdom of what I say to him. As I said before my hon. friend should keep entirely out of business transactions. He should let some other branch of the government attend to the business end. Let him confine himself to scientific agriculture and research, and I have no doubt we shall have grand results in the Dominion of Canada.

About a year ago we know that my hon. friend drifted into another business venture in regard to horses. I am bringing this matter

to the attention of the House only to show the business capacity of the hon. gentleman, not to attack his professional standing, not to insinuate that he is not one of the high class farmers of the Dominion of Canada. But he undertook to tell the farmers of western Canada that he would find them a market in Europe for their horses. The horse market is not as good to-day as it used to be. The automobile, I suppose, has affected the horse market. Within the last twelve or fifteen months the Minister of Agriculture thought that he would develop that trade himself, and he employed someone to go out and purchase horses throughout western Canada. He purchased 84 of them and sent them abroad. He had them sold in the European market—those of them that were fit to sell—and the total outlay of the government of Canada on that enterprise was apparently \$28,175.39. When the horses were sold they yielded the handsome return of \$7,261, making a net loss of about \$21,000 to whom? To the minister? No; to the treasury of Canada; to the taxpayers of the Dominion of Canada, and this is one of the outstanding business experiments of the Minister of Agriculture. Now if he has similar knowledge in regard to the butter trade, I do not see any reason why the butter trade should not also end in disaster. The truth is, Mr. Speaker, that his department should not mix up in business matters of any kind, because when it does, the treasury of this Dominion, or the people of Canada, always seem to get the worst of the transaction.

There is another thing in connection with the trade of Canada to which I would like to draw the attention of my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I recognize in the Minister of Trade and Commerce one of the outstanding business men of the province of Ontario. He is still a comparatively young man. He has had an active business experience. He is the proprietor of one of those large industries in the province of Ontario of which the people of this province are proud, and he has made a success of his business. He is one of the largest furniture manufacturers in the province of Ontario. I know that he has keen business capacity, and I am going to ask him to look over his own trade returns and see if he cannot find some way of curing the situation that has arisen through the operations of the King administration during the last four or five years in regard to treaty making. I charge that in every instance in which the King government has made a trade agreement or arrangement with another country, Canada has got the