

was practically hopeless, and it was the deplorable condition of the agricultural interest in England, brought so forcibly to the notice of the Imperial Government, that induced them to adopt this policy. It was not in my opinion, for the purpose of protecting British cattle from the introduction of pleuro-pneumonia or other disease from this or any other country, but for the purpose of protecting the interests of British agriculturists.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Mr. SPROULE. I rose before six o'clock to say but a very few words upon this motion in reply to some remarks that were made by the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan) and the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). I was a little surprised at the position taken by the hon. member for South Huron to-day and the fulsome eulogy he expended upon this Government for the concessions which they obtained from the United States, in the shape of permission to export our cattle to that country without undergoing the quarantine that was previously imposed. It is only a few years ago when the hon. gentleman advocated very strongly the importation of free corn on the ground that it was absolutely necessary in order that we might feed our cattle as cheaply as possible. He contended that the most profitable trade to our farmers would be the feeding of cattle in Canada until they were in prime condition and then exporting them to the old country. At that time there was a discussion as to the advantage which Canada had secured through the efforts of our then High Commissioner (Sir Charles Tupper) in getting the embargo taken off cattle exported to Great Britain, and the hon. gentleman took the view that the removal of this embargo was no great advantage to us, because it would be much more profitable to our farmers to ship our cattle in prime condition than to ship them as stockers, and that it would be in their interests if our Government would prevent the exportation of stockers. He said that he himself every year fed a number of cattle, and the disadvantage he found he had to labour under was the difficulty of obtaining coarse grains, and contended that if corn were allowed to come in free, we would be enabled to feed our own cattle cheaply, so that even if Great Britain did schedule our cattle, that would be to our profit, because it was much better for us to feed our own cattle for export to the old country. The sooner the day came, he said, when Canada would not export half-fed cattle or stockers, the better it would be for Canadian farmers, and therefore he did not con-

sider the late Government entitled to any credit for the removal of that embargo or for its efforts to have it removed. To-day however, the hon. gentleman appears to have changed his views, and thinks it is a great concession to be allowed to ship our cattle without quarantine to the United States, and he instanced with much satisfaction the number of stockers which had been sent to Buffalo last spring. I really can find no reason for this change of policy on the hon. gentleman's part except in the fact that this concession was obtained by his friends. Just as it depends a great deal whose ox is gored, so it depends a great deal who it is that does the act, and he congratulates his own friends to-day on obtaining something which a few years ago he argued was no advantage to our Canadian farmers.

The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) complained very strongly that the late Government had not made the strong effort they should have made to have the embargo raised on our cattle, and he went on to argue that that embargo was put on our cattle because the quarantine regulations were not enforced by this Government, but were very laxly carried out. I believe he went so far as to say that the British Board of Agriculture declared it was because of that fact that the embargo had been imposed. The late Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Montague) replied by citing the contents of a letter from the president of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Long), which distinctly stated that the board had never complained of the way in which we had carried out our quarantine regulations, and that it was not at all on that account the embargo was put on Canadian cattle. At the time the first complaint was made, in 1892, two cases supposed to be pleuro-pneumonia were found in a consignment of cattle on the "Huron" and "Mount Seaton." The late Government did everything possible, firstly, to satisfy the British Board of Agriculture that there was no pleuro-pneumonia in Canada and, secondly, that the herd from which these cattle came was not affected but was healthy in every respect, and that, therefore, there was no possible reason why they should be slaughtered. The hon. member for Wellington condemned the late Government for not having ordered the slaughter of the cattle from which these two cases were taken. He said that, at any rate, they were open to the suspicion of having been brought in from the United States, owing to the lax enforcement of our quarantine regulations, and therefore prejudiced our case in the old country. He forgot to tell the House that in tracing up the sources from which these cattle came, it was found that one came from Wolfe Island, near Kingston, and that the herd from which it came was closely inspected and again examined and every single animal in it found to be healthy