

namely, that it is now being conceded on the other side by influential journals such as this that there is no defence for the present embargo on any ground whatever, either in their own interest or in ours. Now I have this to say to members of parliament, to those who are farmers and those who are not, that I hope they will assist us in unanimously supporting this resolution. We expect some good will come from it. We know perfectly well that in this great country of ours the cattle industry is going to be one of our most important interests. There is no industry in the country to-day equal to it for the preservation of the fertility of our land in the older parts of the country, than the raising of cattle, either beef cattle or dairy cattle, especially beef cattle. This being the case, and looking to the future welfare of our farmers in the older parts of the Dominion, and even in the newer and rougher parts of northern Ontario and Quebec, I claim we are going to benefit our country very largely by pressing for the removal of this embargo. I think the time may soon come when it will be removed. However, I for one, as long as I remain a member of this parliament, will not be discouraged if we do not get it immediately, but I will continue to press our claims on the home government for the removal of this very unjust and unfair embargo.

Mr. R. BICKERDIKE (Montreal, St. Lawrence). Mr. Speaker, on many occasions I have been asked by the gentlemen of Canada to introduce a similar resolution to that brought down from the Committee on Agriculture, but I have felt that it was rather a dangerous question to take up, because, if it were taken up, it would have to be dealt with on its merits, and if dealt with on its merits, I believed, that something might have to be said that would be unfavourable to gentlemen occupying high positions in the British government. It is a well-known fact that there is no disease in the cattle of this country, that there never was and that under the present arrangements, if continued, there never will be. The British Board of Agriculture, in 1892, simply gold-bricked this country. They were playing a game with Canadian interests and they were using loaded dice in that game.

Mr. FOSTER. That is a pretty strong statement.

Mr. BICKERDIKE. Yes, and I will prove it to the satisfaction of the hon. member for North Toronto.

Mr. FOSTER. Loaded dice!

Mr. BICKERDIKE. I say that the Canadian farmer, rancher and cattle exporter and the importer on the other side simply desire the liberty to dispose of their cattle as they think best. We have no cattle disease and we want the restrictions im-

posed upon that ground removed, or failing their removal, a frank acknowledgment on the part of the British government that the restrictions are solely and entirely for the purpose of protecting the home live cattle market, protecting the farmers of Great Britain, not against disease but against competition from this country. The British Board of Agriculture insist that it is the disease. I have no objection to them using that term, but I do demand that they will give the disease its proper name and call it protection and not pleuro-pneumonia.

Mr. TAYLOR. The Liberals of Great Britain are sailing under false colours there as they are here.

Mr. BICKERDIKE. Under the existing law Canadian cattle are only allowed to land at one port in Scotland, Glasgow, and I think three in England. At these ports, within ten days of arrival, the cattle have to be slaughtered. As a result of these conditions the buyers are confined to a few butchers in the vicinity of the ports. I am giving a few of these facts at the beginning so that the House will be in possession of them. Prior to 1892 Canadian cattle were allowed to go into the interior. In 1892 one of the veterinary inspectors of the British Board of Agriculture claimed to have discovered pleuro-pneumonia in one of the animals that had been shipped to Glasgow. It is a strange thing that the disease should have been detected in one animal only which we disputed and where our veterinarians disputed. Out of the million and a half cattle that had been slaughtered in England and Scotland only one animal was even suspected to have this disease. I claim that the British Board of Agriculture have treated us very unfairly.

Mr. HENDERSON. Before the hon. gentleman leaves that, perhaps he would tell us whether it was demonstrated that the suspicion was well founded, that even one animal was diseased?

Mr. BICKERDIKE. No, sir, it was not. I will produce evidence, with the permission of the House, to prove that the animal landed in Glasgow was all right but that she got the disease after she landed there. It was an old cow that happened to be shipped over. This one animal contracted the disease after she landed in Scotland. That was the only case and that was the case that was used as ground for placing the embargo upon us.

Mr. SPROULE. There must have been some mistake in the history of the case, because it was stated that the disease was detected in an ox brought from Manitoba and taken over on the 'Monkseaton.' How do you turn it into a cow?

Mr. BICKERDIKE. The ox taken over on the 'Monkseaton' is another case to which I will refer. Their own inspectors acknowledged the fact that they had made a mistake. I have the facts in connection