

have put into force regulations in reference to quarantine, and a strong argument may be advanced that the subsequent bargain, by implication, overrides our regulations. I am not much impressed with that view of the matter although there is no reservation in the reciprocity agreement. I waive that point, but I feel it is all important that we are entering into an arrangement which may conflict with this vital matter of our quarantine regulations, and that possibly we may have difficulty owing to the American interpretation of the agreement. My experience is that in cases of contract where there is no court to which the parties can resort, the result of a dispute is that the stronger must and does prevail. I am addressing myself to the question of protecting our cattle by these quarantine regulations, and am endeavouring to warn the minister as he is the guardian of all the hogs, cattle and poultry of Canada, that he should be on the alert, that there is great danger of the Americans so using their influence over us, by force of numbers, that the reputation of our meat products will be seriously imperilled. The Americans might be quite prepared to admit that our regulations are valid and within our rights, but they may argue that this is not a fair exercise of that right, and that under colour of quarantine regulations we are excluding their cattle from our markets. While I have great respect for the American people as individuals, the history of our transactions with them in the past is not such as to make me feel that we can safely leave to the United States the interpretation of our action in reference to quarantine, they will say we are not acting honestly, and they will endeavour to hold the club over us. While I do not think I can frighten the Minister of Agriculture, I guarantee that they will frighten him when the time comes and we will be the sufferers, that they will impose their interpretation of our right to enforce quarantine regulations, and that the minister will be compelled to allow their live stock to enter Canada imperilling the safety of our flocks and herds. I ask the minister to act on behalf of the farmers for once and to come to the rescue of the reputation of our live stock. I know he has sufficient influence in the cabinet, acting on behalf of the farmers, to melt the stony hearts of the First Minister and the Minister of Finance although they seem to be obdurate on this reciprocity question, and I appeal to him to protect the interests of the farmers in this matter.

Mr. FISHER. I assure my hon. friend I will not be deaf to his appeal. I appreciate his efforts and I will try to deserve them.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Did the minister during the recess inquire as to whether this agreement would have the effect alleged?

Mr. BLAIN. When are we to receive information as to the opinion of the Justice Department?

Mr. FISHER. I will discuss it with my colleague certainly, and get his views as soon as I can. I hope that when another item of mine comes up I will be able to tell my hon. friend what the views of the Minister of Justice are.

Mr. BLAIN. My understanding is that my hon. friend would have the compact agreed to by his government, including himself and, after it has been agreed to, when he has a little time on his hands, he is going to submit it to the Justice Department. I would have supposed that a minister who is looking after the interests of the farmers would have submitted this question to the Justice Department before they consented to the contract or made the agreement. The charge that I make with respect to this matter is that my hon. friend has forgotten the farmers' interests altogether, both with respect to the care of the health of our animals and on general principles. My hon. friend remembers very well the applause that the government heaped upon him from within, not from without, because he was a practical farmer.

Mr. MILLER. Hear, hear.

Mr. BLAIN. My hon. friend says 'hear, hear;' I am delighted to have his support.

Mr. MILLER. My hon. friend has my support in saying that the Minister of Agriculture is a practical, a very successful and a thoroughly up-to-date farmer. I would like to ask the hon. member for Peel whether, if my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture obtained a legal opinion from my hon. friend the Minister of Justice, he would be satisfied with that opinion?

Mr. BLAIN. My hon. friend has entirely misunderstood me. I was pointing out the applause that was coming from the government and my hon. friend's side of the House because the Minister of Agriculture was an up-to-date farmer. I was not suggesting that I was believing in that applause.

Mr. MILLER. Oh, I misunderstood you, then; I thought you were.

Mr. BLAIN. My hon. friend was mistaken about that. What I would like to know is whether my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture has not forgotten the interests of the farmer with respect to this matter.

Mr. FISHER. Oh, no.