

from disease, and try to get that fact more fully recognized by the English political leaders and the English press generally. We consider that it is unfair to Canada to exclude our cattle on the ground that they are affected by disease, when, as a matter of fact, they are not diseased, and when the embargo is kept up purely for the protection of the English producer.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). The House is indebted to the hon. member for Bruce (Mr. P. H. McKenzie) for bringing up this question, and to the hon. member for St. Lawrence division, Montreal (Mr. Bickerdike), for the succinct history of the question which he has given to the House. I remember when these discussions began to take place in this House. The first was with reference to the action of Sir Charles Tupper, when he succeeded in disabusing the minds of the English people of the error that diseased cattle were being imported into Great Britain from Canada, under which error the English government had put the embargo on. At that time Sir Charles Tupper was High Commissioner for Canada, and he went down into the pens where the cattle were slaughtered, took off his coat and donned a butcher's overalls, and, in company with a veterinary surgeon, he made a thorough examination of our cattle; and, being a medical man himself, he was well able to do so. To that extent did he succeed in convincing the British people that there was no justification for the embargo, that it was removed. When it was claimed on behalf of the Conservative government in Canada that some credit was due them in this regard, I remember the discussion which took place in this House and when the Liberal members refused to give the government any credit. Some of the Reform members declared that it was of no use to the Canadian farmer to get this embargo removed, but it would rather be an injury to him; that it would be better if he did not have the privilege, because he would then finish his beef in Canada and get a better profit from it. I think I can name some of the gentlemen who made that argument. Now, in 1892, owing to the fact that two of our cattle, as already mentioned, were taken into Great Britain and supposed to be diseased, the embargo was again put on by the British Board of Agriculture, and a further attempt was made in Canada to have it removed. I am glad the hon. member for St. Lawrence division, Montreal, has related to the House step by step what was done in this connection. I recognize that no one in Canada is entitled to speak with greater authority than that hon. gentleman, because he has always been interested in this question, and no one is better able to declare, as he has done, that everything in reason was done that could be done to convince the British people that there was no pleuro-pneumonia among the cattle imported from Canada. We remember the various

steps that were taken by the Conservative government, through its officials, with Dr. McEachren at the head of them, to assure the British people that our cattle were healthy. Various veterinary surgeons were employed to go all over the country and examine the herds and send in their reports, and upon the strength of these reports we gave a certificate of health to the cattle going over. That was done for the purpose of convincing the British Board of Agriculture that we were being unjustly dealt with. I remember the long discussions that took place in this House in 1892 with regard to that. We had allegations made by the Liberal members that the embargo was placed upon Canadian cattle owing to the laxity of the quarantine regulations that were carried out by this government. American cattle were being brought to Canada under special regulations that were being carried out so as to ensure the freedom of Canadian cattle from disease.

Mr. BICKERDIKE. They were not brought to Canada, but were taken through Canada in sealed cars, I think, from Sarnia.

Mr. SPROULE. American cattle were passing through Canada, but the regulations provided that they should be examined at the border, at Sarnia. Then they were put in cars which were sealed up, and were accompanied through the country by an agent to see that they were not allowed to be disembarked while they were on Canadian soil.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Were not those same cars frequently brought back into Canada and used for carrying Canadian cattle?

Mr. SPROULE. They were cleaned out and disinfected by fumigation and otherwise. The contention from the government side was that the embargo was not due to any relaxation of the quarantine regulations or to the imperfect examination of those cattle; that the regulations had been carried out to the letter as previously insisted upon by the British Board of Agriculture. The opponents of the government, however, contended that the British people knew that our regulations were imperfect, and for that reason did not remove the embargo. Our opponents promised that if there was a change of government, and if men took hold of it who had business habits and business experience, there would be little difficulty in getting that embargo removed. In 1896, when we went to the country, the people were told how much the Canadian farmer was losing by this embargo. They said the present government could not get it removed because they had themselves been instrumental in bringing it about, and they contended that if we Reformers were elected there would be no difficulty whatever in getting it removed. No doubt the present Minister of Agriculture joined in that campaign, and told the