

ing the Atlantic with the Pacific are a very beautiful and a distinct connecting link. In short, Sir, mixed farming is a national industry. I am not now speaking in the interests of any province, but of the whole Dominion. Agriculture in other parts of Canada is flourishing, but in the sections I have enumerated it is a very distinct industry, and a blow

at our mixed farming is a blow  
4 p.m. at our national existence. The capital invested in our dairy and mixed farming activities runs into hundreds of millions of dollars. We produce similar products to those which are produced in such profusion in Australia and New Zealand—fruit, vegetables, butter, cheese, and meats—all of these are produced in Canada, but they are produced in even greater profusion in the Antipodes. Why, then, should we give the people of Australia and New Zealand these tariff concessions?

Mr. BALDWIN: May I ask the hon. gentleman a question? Are not raisins, which are produced in vast quantities in Australia, one of the commodities accorded very favourable treatment under the Australian treaty? I am not aware that we produce raisins.

Mr. ANDERSON (Halton): A concession was given to the Australians on raisins, and as we do not produce this fruit ourselves, there is no reason why we should not allow it in free. But Australia and New Zealand can produce the other articles I have mentioned much cheaper than we can on account of their more favourable climatic conditions. Nearly half of Australia is in the tropical zone and the other is in the south temperate zone. Thus that country can produce fruits and vegetables under just as favourable conditions as they can be produced in the United States, and the competition of our Antipodean cousins in these lines is almost on a parity with similar competition from the United States. While the distance from Australia is greater, involving higher transportation charges, yet this is more than offset by their climate, which does not require the Australians to house their cattle during the winter; it does not require the winter storage of fodder for their cattle; it does not require any winter care of plants and fruit trees. Consequently their cost of production is very much lessened. They have another advantage in that their summer season is our winter season, and under this treaty their grass-fed butter will be coming in here during the winter months to compete with our stabled butter, which costs us considerably more to produce. This will be a serious menace to our dairy producers.

Many of our farmers have gone to great expense in improving their herds, their stabling, their facilities for storing fodder, their feeding equipment during the winter months, in order to cater to the wants of the Canadian people throughout the winter. We have also large sums of money invested in creameries and cheese factories all over the country in order that a steady flow of these products may be maintained to our own market and to the export market. In addition to those capital investments we have a large amount of capital invested in cold storage plants for the purpose of preserving the summer or grass-fed butter for winter consumption in order to maintain a steady flow of this commodity the year around, and so prevent any sharp rises in price. The people interested in these various activities have a right to expect the government to conserve their investments. But this government, apparently unknowingly, throws their interests in the waste paper basket in order to advance the interests of the people of the Antipodes. In other words, this treaty affords a splendid opportunity to our cousins in Australia and New Zealand to capture the Canadian market for dairy products, particularly in the winter season when prices are high. Yet the government, blind to its duty to its own people, and obsessed with the idea that freer trade, irrespective of competition, produces national prosperity, is jeopardizing an industry which it should be protecting to the utmost.

The concession given by the Australian government on manufactured articles, which she cannot produce and which she needs, is no real concession to offset the concessions which this government has granted to the dairy farmers of Australia. The Australians wanted our manufactured articles. On the other hand, they asked and received concessions on what they do produce on an extensive scale and naturally have a large surplus for export. Consequently, they are looking for export markets, and they are very glad to get concessions for their products in the Canadian market. They would not ask for these concessions if they did not feel they could successfully compete in the Canadian market; and they can successfully compete in our markets because the transportation charges are not greater than the transportation charges the Ontario farmer has to pay who ships butter to Calgary. The two can meet there in competition on equal terms, and the consequences will be that the dairy industry of the west will meet with severe competition from Australia and New Zealand just as soon as they are able to ship