

and earnest effort should be made for its removal, hon. gentlemen opposite were in power, and they did not make that vigorous, active and determined effort to have it removed. The result was, that the English Government passed the embargo into a statutory enactment, so that its removal, if made at all, has to be made by a repealing Act of the British Parliament. Under these circumstances, the present Minister of Agriculture, seeing that England had proceeded in the determination of perpetuating that condition of things, made the very best move he could make. That was to secure the closest, most liberal and most unrestricted intercourse for the sale of cattle between Canada and the United States; and he has done that. But what was the cause of the embargo in the first place? Was it because there were no quarantine regulations between Canada and the United States? It was because, although they did exist, they were so loosely, recklessly and carelessly administered by hon. gentlemen opposite, when they were in power, and the English Minister of Agriculture became aware of the fact.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

Mr. McMULLEN. That has been proved over and over again in this House, and the documents will bear out what I say.

Mr. MONTAGUE. If the hon. gentleman will permit me, I will say that, on some future occasion, I will bring a letter which was sent to me by the present president of the British Board of Agriculture, the Right Hon. Walter Long, in which he said that the British Government never had a shadow of fault to find with the manner in which we carried out the regulations.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) read to this House all the correspondence in connection with that unfortunate incident, and proved beyond all question that the responsibility rested at the door of the Government here, and there has never, to this day, been an answer made to that charge.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him, who is the higher authority as to what influenced the Imperial Government—the British Minister of Agriculture or the Postmaster General of Canada?

Mr. McMULLEN. What the Postmaster General of Canada presented here was a complete recapitulation of the communications that passed between the Government of Canada and the Home Government on that whole question. The English Government outlined a certain course which the Canadian Government should take in order to get that embargo removed. Were the suggestions of the British Government carried out?

Mr. McMULLEN.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. That is another question altogether.

Mr. McMULLEN. They were not at all, as the hon. leader of the Opposition knows. One suggestion was that several of the herds shipped to England should be slaughtered in order to ascertain whether pleuropneumonia existed in Canada or not. Can the hon. leader of the Opposition say that that suggestion was carried out?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. An utterly impracticable suggestion.

Mr. McMULLEN. It was not carried out, and the reason was that it would be too great an expense to do so. The ex-Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Montague), in presenting the case to the House, did not do it fairly. Hon. gentlemen opposite occupied the Treasury benches when the opportunity existed for the removal of the embargo, and neglected that opportunity. They did not exert themselves as earnestly or zealously as they ought to have done to get that embargo removed. The present Government, however, entered office after the embargo had taken a statutory form, and when the prospect of getting it removed was much less than when it was in the form of a scheduling order. That is the difference.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman is entirely mistaken in the view he takes of this question. The evidence is clear and incontrovertible. The papers brought down and laid on the Table of the House of Commons by the Imperial Government showed that Canada had made out such an overwhelming case in favour of the removal of all the disabilities imposed by the schedule, that the Colonial Minister, who had the whole matter under his charge, and with whom all the negotiations were carried on, declared, in a communication to the Department of Agriculture—a thing almost unparalleled in the history of the Imperial Government—that he was satisfied, from the case that Canada had presented, that no pleuro-pneumonia existed in this country. The Liberal party were then in power, and the Marquis of Ripon exerted all his influence—in fact, went further than a British Minister almost ever goes—to induce his colleagues in the Government to cancel the order. If the Government of Canada were able to make out a case that satisfied the Colonial Minister that the restriction ought to be removed, I want to know whether it lies with any person in Canada to say that there was any failure on the part of the Canadian Government. I think that settles the matter conclusively. Lord Ripon felt strongly, as the late Minister of Agriculture said since his removal to the House of Lords, that the adoption of an Act prohibiting cattle from being landed alive in Great Britain was a matter of pure protection. I, myself, felt, when the present Government came into power, that the removal of the embargo