

allowed to take its second reading, and be referred to the Banking and Commerce Committee with which it is certainly intimately connected, and then it can be dealt with in the ordinary way.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That is the wiser course to pursue.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

#### SPECULATION IN THE SALE OF BUTTER AND CHEESE.

Mr. PARMALEE moved second reading of Bill (No. 83) to prohibit improper speculation in the sale of butter and cheese. He said: When introducing this Bill I took occasion to explain pretty fully its main features, so that I will now merely move its second reading, and suggest that it go to the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). I would like to suggest that this Bill had better be sent to the Committee on Agriculture. It is a matter of considerable importance to the farmers of the country, and I think that committee would deal with it, perhaps, better than the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The Minister of Agriculture is quite correct; I was going to make that suggestion myself.

Mr. PARMALEE. I am quite ready to adopt the suggestion. I suggested that it go to the Banking and Commerce Committee, because I thought it would meet with less opposition there than before any other committee. However, I am satisfied the Bill will receive greater attention before the Committee on Agriculture. While it is a Bill that concerns trade to some extent, it also intimately concerns the farmers and dairymen of this country.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

#### ADJOURNMENT—TRADE WITH THE WEST INDIES.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). As we have been very industrious this evening, I do not think we will ask the House to do any more business. I move that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. MACLEAN. Before the House adjourns, I have a matter to which I wished to call the attention of the Minister of Trade and Commerce when the Orders of the Day were called. There is an item in the London "Times," of Tuesday, March 15, which reports a debate in the House of Commons. It states that Mr. Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on Monday, March 14, made a statement in the British House of Commons to this effect:

That we are engaged in negotiations with the United States and also with the Dominion of Can-

Mr. FISHER.

ada, which we hope may result in reciprocity arrangements between those countries and the West Indies for West Indian products. I am unable at present to say that the negotiations have made much progress.

I should like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce if he will take the House and the country into his confidence as to the nature of these negotiations, and indicate what is likely to be the outcome of them.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I think my hon. friend will be able to obtain full information in a very short time, when the Budget is brought down. The propositions are necessarily closely intertwined with certain proposals of the Budget, and we hope then to give my hon. friend full satisfaction.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 8.25 p.m.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 31st March, 1898.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

#### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 107) to incorporate the Yukon Overland Transportation Company.—(Mr. Domville.)

Bill (No. 108) to incorporate the Alaska and North-western Railway Company.—(Mr. Belcourt.)

Bill (No. 109) to incorporate the British American Light and Power Company.—(Mr. Rosamond.)

#### BATTLEFORD INDIAN AGENCY— DEATH OF CATTLE.

Mr. DAVIS (Saskatchewan) asked,

What number of cattle belonging to the Department of Indian Affairs died in the Battleford Indian agency during the winter of 1896-97, and what proportion of the deaths were attributable to the carelessness of officials?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Two hundred and seventy head of cattle belonging to the Department of Indian Affairs in the Battleford Indian Agency died during 1896-97. It appears that there is no doubt that the mortality was considerably increased by the lack of forethought of the agent in not providing fodder. But it is not possible to make a definite estimate as to what proportion of the deaths were attributable to that negligence.

#### CANADIAN AND ENGLISH MAILS— BEAVER LINE STEAMERS.

Mr. IVES (by Mr. Taylor) asked,

1. What are the names of the steamships that have been employed by the Beaver Line Com-