

Supply—Agriculture

is not desirable on the part of this government to show to the Canadian people that there are 25,000,000 pounds of foreign dairy butter coming into Canada.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): The returns must show it.

Mr. ROWE: Yes, they do show it; but the people do not know it yet. They will not know until next year. So far as this \$5,000 grant to the National Dairy Council is concerned, I submit to the minister that when he gives such a grant to a council one expects that the advice offered by that council, and the resolutions which they pass, will be taken into consideration. I ask the minister now where he stands personally in view of the resolution from the National Dairy Council. Some of the most important resolutions that have reached the government have come from that council, and in my opinion the grant should be increased to \$10,000; because if any council has courage enough to give this government a hint to protect the home markets for the home producer, it deserves every consideration for such advice.

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): If that is what the dairy council are doing we had better cut out the grant.

Mr. ROWE: The resolutions of the dairy council are as important to this country as any of the recommendations that are made by the Consumers' League in connection with the famous tariff board.

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): We are not giving a grant to the league.

Mr. ROWE: I ask hon. members whether the National Dairy Council's advice would not be of more benefit if acted upon than any advice given by the Consumers' League. I would ask the minister now to tell us where he stands on this question. Does he not believe himself that some protection should be given to the dairy industry of the country? We are importing 25,000,000 pounds of foreign produced butter; there are 1,000 cows less in Canada this year than last year; there is consequent depression in the swine industry which is so closely associated with dairying; and there is an all round depressing effect on the activities of the basic industry of Canada. In view of these facts, will the minister rise in his place now and tell us where he stands personally, independently of the free trade inclination of some of his colleagues?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I do not think that the committee is interested in my personal views on the question; the government's views are one.

[Mr. Rowe.]

Mr. ROWE: I know what their views are.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The committee is not interested in my personal views.

Mr. ROWE: We certainly are.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: As regards the suggestion that we are trying to camouflage the amount of Australian and New Zealand butter coming into the country by desisting from giving the facts, the thing is absurd; that question never entered my mind for a moment. As a matter of fact, the question of marking on imported products the country of origin has never before come up in this house, so far as I know, and I am just wondering whether, if such legislation were proposed, it would meet with this uproarious support from certain quarters of the house. Judging from the way the British Merchandise Marks Act has worked out, I believe it is a good thing. I have never seen the act but I believe it serves a good purpose. But it must be invoked with a great deal of caution, because they have met with a good deal of trouble in the old country in imposing it.

Mr. ROWE: It seems to me just as absurd to carry on the way we are doing as it is to make the proposal which has been submitted to the minister. Surely we ought to know the origin of goods which are imported into the country; the place of manufacture ought to be indicated. You so mark your furniture in the Chateau Laurier; surely then it will not be suggested that it is absurd to have foreign products coming into Canada marked to show the country of origin.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: From the departmental standpoint I shall be delighted, we shall all be delighted, to have the question looked into during the recess to see whether we cannot bring it in some form or other before the house at another session. Looking at it cursorily, I think it is good; but I found long ago that it is always best to look twice before you jump once, and to be quite sure just where you are getting off at. It looks goods to me and I should like to see it applied all round whenever practicable, but the matter must be looked into.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): When the minister does propose it and he finds himself instantly met with strenuous opposition from the dairy council, I hope he will not waiver. I anticipate that the dairy council will be the first body to issue a strenuous protest against the proposed marking of the country of importation.