

This telegram expresses the attitude of these gentlemen to the amendment now before the House in so far as it relates to the Australian treaty, and they have a perfect right to state their views on the subject as emphatically as they can. It is, I think, exceedingly proper that they should be alive to their own interests and they are to be commended for the activity they display in looking after those interests when they fear that the privileges they enjoy in this country are threatened. To that extent they have my entire sympathy. I do not want it understood for a single moment that I am advocating the abrogation of the treaty to the detriment of the pulp and paper industry in Canada. But I do want to ask these gentlemen in British Columbia a very pertinent question. They derive some benefit from the treaty; they enjoy a certain profitable trade because of its operation. Very well; but do they expect the dairymen of Canada to pay for the privileges they enjoy? Why deprive the dairymen of this Dominion of the same privileges that are extended to a particular industry? On the floor of this House the other night the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) informed us that we produced in Canada some 275,000,000 pounds of butter of which he said we exported 25,000,000 pounds. That left a total of 250,000,000 pounds which we sold in the local market. Now I think I have already established the fact that the inequality in the tariff under this treaty, since it has come into force, has been responsible for a reduction of 3 cents per pound in the price of butter in Canada. No one can deny that.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. FRASER: Hon. gentlemen apparently do not follow me. At any rate, that is my contention and while I shall not stop here to argue the point I state, what is a fact, that we sell at home in Canada 250,000,000 pounds of butter, in regard to which the producers have suffered a loss of 3 cents per pound because of unfair competition. That works out at a total of \$7,500,000 which these gentlemen in British Columbia, if their demands are acceded to, would have the dairymen of Canada lose, as in fact they have already lost it. The pulp and paper people of British Columbia are very properly looking to their own interests; but why should the dairymen of the Dominion stand a loss of \$7,500,000 in order to protect those interests? Why not let us all get in line and give to the dairymen the same advantages that are extended to the pulp and paper interests?

Mr. DUSSAULT: Is the hon. gentleman multiplying the 25,000,000 by 3?

Mr. FRASER: I am multiplying the 250,000,000 by 3. The 25,000,000 we export. The hon. member does not understand my argument. I subtracted that 25,000,000 from the total production because the 3 cents per pound could not apply to what we exported but only to the quantity of the product sold at home; and I contend that on that 250,000,000 pounds of butter the farmers would have received 3 cents per pound less under the operation of the Australian treaty than they got. I do not think that anybody is arguing that the tariff will protect us at all in our export business.

Mr. DUSSAULT: Does the hon. member contend that 4,000,000 pounds of butter imported into this country will fix the price of 275,000,000 or 250,000,000 pounds?

Mr. FRASER: Where do you get the 4,000,000?

Mr. DUSSAULT: That is what we have imported.

Mr. FRASER: I think my hon. friend is altogether on the wrong track. The price obtained in the home market is governed not by any quantity of exports but by the extent of the tariff protection afforded; and as I have said, the dairymen have lost \$7,500,000 on the butter sold at home as a result of a reduction in price of 3 cents per pound. Let me impress upon the government as well as upon these gentlemen out in British Columbia this fact, that the dairymen of the Dominion have as effectually lost that \$7,500,000 as though a gang of men had shot their cows or burned their buildings or rifled their safes. That is virtually what has been done to the dairymen of this country, for you might just as well injure them one way as another. Now I ask in all fairness, I ask hon. gentlemen representing these pulp and paper interests, is it right, is it fair that our dairymen should be sacrificed in order to protect others? I do not think that we can stand for that.

And do not let hon. gentlemen run away with the idea that our dairymen are the only ones who have suffered under this treaty. My hon. friend from West Kootenay (Mr. Esling) the other night pointed out that the fruit industry had been hit hard, and this applies to all branches of fruit growing. There are numerous branches of that one industry alone which have suffered; and in addition to this the treaty has affected the vegetable grower, the truck gardener, the honey producer, and the hog raiser, for the tariff under the treaty certainly discriminates against Canadian lard.