

was put on. In that year, 1892, we shipped 99,235 head of cattle to Great Britain. In 1893, the number fell to 83,000. I need not quote the figures for the several years; but I may state, that, notwithstanding all drawbacks we exported to Great Britain in 1903 no fewer than 147,201 head of cattle. And I claim that, if there was no embargo against Canadian cattle, the number would have run up to two or three hundred thousand. Is it not clear that the time has arrived when we should say to Great Britain, as I have already suggested—respectfully, politely, if you will, but very firmly—that this stigma of disease must be removed and our cattle allowed to go into any country, over which the British flag flies?

Mr. M. S. SCHELL (South Oxford). The importance of this question is so great, that, even at this stage of the session, we may well afford time for the discussion of it. Although efforts have been put forth in this House, and although the press of Canada has directed its attention to this question, still up to the present time, we have failed to secure the object we have in view, in the removal of the embargo on our cattle. Everything combines to prove that this is an opportune time to renew our efforts, and an opportune time to continue this discussion. We believe that the merits of our case are such that when that case is presented to the British people they will be more disposed to consider the subject favourably. We are glad to know that British officials practically recognize that our cattle are free from pleuro-pneumonia. For some years they took the position, absolutely, positively, that our cattle were affected with this disease. We claim that now that they have practically recognized that that is not the case, they should, as has been suggested in this House, publish to the world their change of opinion. And we believe that if the matter is pressed by this House and properly presented to the British people they will recognize the justice of our contention, and, we hope, will remove the embargo which is so prejudicial to the trade of Canada. I have said that this is an opportune time for this discussion. You have only to read the speeches that have been delivered recently by the men who have been meeting our manufacturers on their visit to various places in Great Britain. Let me call your attention to a few words uttered by Hon. T. S. Brassey on a recent occasion:

The trend of the policy of Great Britain was towards the reform of the tariff in the interest of her own people, and then to give a substantial preference to the colonies, sufficient to divert the stream of emigration from the United States and Argentine.

I might refer to other utterances of a similar nature. We know that the agitation in Great Britain in regard to the tariff is very largely due to the desire to encourage trade between the different parts of the British empire; and we also know that

Mr. BICKERDIKE.

the preferential tariff inaugurated by this government has done a great deal to draw the attention of the British consumers, as well as the British public generally, to the trade of the colonies. And we believe, that seeing what has been already done by the Dominion government in order to foster trade between the colonies and Great Britain, they will be ready to recognize our claim on this subject of the cattle embargo. We contend that their position is strangely illogical in dealing with the embargo and thus hampering our export of the cattle trade. They have recognized that our cattle are practically—in fact I may say entirely—free of pleuro-pneumonia. We claim, therefore, that they should not hesitate to remove this embargo. We know, of course, that Englishmen are intensely conservative. They possibly think that the removal of the embargo might have an injurious effect upon their trade and so, through the operation of public opinion, injure the political party that was responsible for the change. But we do not believe that the removal of the embargo would very seriously affect the price received by British producers of beef. On the other hand, the privilege of allowing our cattle to be held a reasonable time after they arrive at English ports, instead of being compelled to be slaughtered within ten days, would result in our beef being placed upon the market in much better condition, and so would enable it to command a better price without seriously affecting the price that would be obtained by the English breeders and growers. Further, we believe, as was intimated by one of the hon. gentlemen who preceded me, that the privilege of allowing our cattle to be held after their arrival in Great Britain until they are more fully ripened would be a great advantage to our producers and would improve the quality and the reputation of our beef.

The importance of this industry to Canada has already been referred to. We are exporting now to the British market something over \$10,000,000 worth of cattle annually. In 1903 the number exported, as has been stated, was 147,000 head. Last year the shipments were a trifle more, probably amounting to 150,000 head. We believe that with free entry into the British markets this trade would be developed immensely. We know that many farmers have not facilities for improving their cattle for the English markets, and if the embargo were removed their cattle would be more readily purchased in England for feeding purposes; both English and Scotch farmers would be glad to have our cattle and continue to feed them for a time until they were made fit for the market. I hope our government will succeed in getting this embargo removed. I think if this matter were pressed strongly on the attention of the English government they would be induced to yield to our request. Especially should we insist upon the fact that our cattle are free