

that important question when he was considering these things at Washington, and one would suppose there had never been any suggestions in this House that he should learn the facts in respect of this agreement before now.

Mr. PATERSON. I told you.

Mr. BLAIN. I accept that. Finally, however, he said, 'Put a question on the Order Paper.'

Mr. PATERSON. Because there seemed to be a doubt in the hon. gentleman's mind, and I had not the documents before me, and I was going to look this up.

Mr. BLAIN. Then we will have the answer, I suppose. Now there is another point. The United States government are experts on tariffs, as everybody knows. There are a great many regulations that the United States have in respect of their tariff that admit goods free from Canada, and that the Canadian people do not understand. This House should be in possession of that information when we are dealing with these important questions. For example, a prominent cattleman comes into my county every year, and purchases the very best cattle that are to be found, and he takes them free into the United States under a regulation made by the United States government. My farmers ask the question, particularly after the speech of the hon. member for South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie), when he said that cattle would be worth \$14 a head more under this agreement than they are now; they are confronted with that statement of my hon. friend, who I do not think believes it himself. Now, I am asked the question in my county by the farmers: Mr. Blain, will we get a better price for our cattle when this agreement goes into operation? I ought to be in a position to answer that, I should be in possession of the information furnished by the Minister of Customs, or the Minister of Finance, so that I might be able to say to my farmers: The government say that you will get a better price.

Mr. PATERSON. Would you believe it?

Mr. BLAIN. Well, one would hesitate to believe it, that is, in view of such insufficient information as my hon. friend is giving to the House to-day. Yet I would not hesitate to believe my hon. friend. That is about the way it strikes my mind this afternoon. Now, the United States government have regulations of that kind. The fact is that these cattle are purchased every year by United States cattlemen coming from Chicago into the county of Peel, and other counties, they purchase the best cattle in the county, and under regulations of the United States tariff they

Mr BLAIN.

take these cattle over into the United States absolutely free of duty. Then my hon. friend says under this new arrangement that our farmers will get a better price because we have free trade between the United States and Canada in cattle. Then why does not my hon. friend furnish this House with the facts? The same regulation applies to western wheats. As I understand it, the wheat that the Minneapolis and St. Paul miller requires to grind, under this agreement is admitted into the United States free of duty now. Why does not my hon. friend show over his own signature what the facts are in respect to all these matters as affected by this agreement? These are matters that ought to receive some attention. My hon. friend is a little late in the day in shaking his head. If he had done this before he made the agreement, of course the agreement might never have been made. I am only directing attention to one or two matters concerning which the facts ought to be in the possession of every member of this House. If these facts were made known by the government, the newspapers would not be called upon to make statements from this man, or from the other man, instead of making statements authorized by the government. I say we have just ground of complaint against my hon. friend. I hope we will be able, even at this late day, to give some information to the House for the benefit of the farmers in our constituencies. Naturally they will hold my hon. friend responsible, seeing that he took so active a part in making the agreement. If he will give us the facts we are asking for, I will be glad to communicate them to the farmers of my county.

Mr. PATERSON. I will remind my hon. friend that when we reach the agreement again, he will see that in these matters there may be differences in the administration of our customs laws. It is provided and agreed that if there should be friction in these matters, they shall be made as reciprocal as possible, and if it is necessary on either side to have legislation, the legislation will be had. The matter my hon. friend brings up will be dealt with. For instance they may require certificates from us that we do not require from them, and in some cases we may require certificates that they may think are not necessary. These questions will be the subject of conferences, for which the agreement itself provides.

Mr. PERLEY. Did the hon. the minister, or did he not, in Washington, have the statistics of comparative prices of the various farm products as between the United States and Canada when he was making this agreement?