

find that one particular part of one particular industry, and that the biggest industry in Canada, was selected to do the giving—the mixed farmer, the dairyman, the fruit grower, the vegetable grower and the live stock man. Those were the people who were to do the giving, the very branch of the important industry in which the farmer is most particular, to build up the soil. The figures at that stage then stood: our butter to the States would pay eight cents a pound; our butter to Australia would pay six cents a pound, Australian butter coming into Canada would pay one cent a pound, and all other butter coming into Canada would pay four cents a pound. That is where the figures stood and where they now stand, with this exception: that the government in September last, under order in council, extended those same privileges which Canada was giving to Australia to New Zealand. Member after member has endeavoured to get a statement from the government to explain what Canada is to receive from New Zealand in exchange for what Canada is giving, and so far we have not been told. If Canada is not receiving anything from New Zealand in return for this, all I can say is that the government is dissipating the assets of Canada. It seems to me somewhat like a card player who, through mistakes in his play, has lost the game, and proceeds then to give away some more of his cash to an onlooker. We have tried in this House, and in the departments, to find out just where Canada stands with regard to her negotiations with New Zealand, but I hope before this debate is concluded that some member of the government will explain just what Canada has received or is to receive from New Zealand.

When the Minister of Finance last year brought down the Australian treaty he referred to the alterations which had been in that draft in the following terms:

We are making some other concessions in this measure as it is presented to parliament to-day that will remove and lighten the cost of living and reduce the cost from the breakfast table, without in any way injuring the Canadian trade. We have looked into this very carefully. As the measure was presented to the Australian commonwealth parliament, it was suggested that there should be some changes, some increases in the Canadian tariff. As Australia was not willing to accept the measure and allow us to issue a proclamation last year, we had thought it better to bring it before parliament as it is, and I think I will be able to convince hon. gentlemen that the breakfast table reductions we have made in the cost of living will not in any way interfere with the industry in Canada, but I am bound to admit that it will to a degree take away some revenue from the department.

In the first place, that statement reads to me like a document out of which some clauses have been erased, because I can see no con-

nection whatever between the increases which Canada was proposing in her general tariff, and Australia being unwilling to accept the draft. We endeavoured to find out through the minister just in what way the breakfast table was going to be bettered, and I think the term he used was that although butter would not be cheaper, there would be a better feeling at the breakfast table. The hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Dickie), looking for information, asked this question three times:

In what way will the breakfast table be favourably affected?

And the third time he asked it, the minister's reply was as follows:

Because we shall not be collecting the same revenue as we did before.

Then the minister proceeded:

Why is it of advantage for Canada to make a trade agreement with Australia? Well, the seasons in the two countries are exactly opposite. It is now summer in Canada,—the growing period; it is winter in Australia.

But if we take that for a reason for hammering our mixed farmer for somebody else's benefit and if we say we shall receive in Canada the summer butter of Australia, surely it is reasonable to suggest that the other shoe should fit on the other foot, and that Canadian summer butter should have reasonable opportunities for entering Australia. But supposing our butter attempts to enter Australia, it meets with a tariff, not of one cent but of six cents a pound. Similarly, the argument, if it has any value at all, should apply to New Zealand, and if New Zealand's summer butter may now enter Canada at a duty of one cent a pound, surely equal facilities should be afforded for Canadian butter entering New Zealand. But if Canadian butter attempts to enter New Zealand it is subjected to a duty of 21 per cent ad valorem, and it does not seem to me that those are reasonable terms on which to frame a trade agreement between two countries.

The dairying industry in British Columbia is an important one. By that I do not mean to suggest that it is as large or that there is such an immense production in British Columbia as there is in the prairie provinces and in some other parts of Canada; but under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture, both Dominion and provincial, farmers—not only those who devote all their time and land to dairy production, but the fruit grower, the vegetable grower, the live stock man and the poultry man as well—are all advised not to put their eggs into one basket but to increase diversified farming, to keep some cows. Those men who go in for farming of