

cate and there have been no complaints of the certificates issued by Mr. Cameron.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Is he not the official weigher of the exporters?

Mr. FISHER. No, he is the official weigher appointed by the Board of Trade of Montreal. Mr. McLeod is the employee of the exporters and has no official status of any kind.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Does the hon. minister make the statement that Mr. Parmelee did not suggest that we should have a government weigher at the port of Montreal?

Mr. FISHER. Mr. Parmelee stated no doubt in his report that an official weigher might remove some of the difficulty. But there is an official weigher there—a weigher appointed under an Act of this parliament, an Act which authorizes the Board of Trade an independent commercial body, to appoint a weigher. They do appoint him and the people can take advantage of his services, and until we find that he does not meet their views, I see no object in appointing another.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Has the government any control over that weigher?

Mr. FISHER. No, because the board of trade is authorized by Act of parliament to appoint these weighers. We do not wish to arrogate to ourselves that authority as long as it is properly exercised by an independent body. Hon. gentlemen opposite often charge us with being too autocratic. I am frequently charged with assuming too much power. But the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Armstrong) thinks I do not assume enough. Well, so long as there is no difficulty with Mr. Cameron, I prefer to leave the appointment of a weigher to an independent body like the board of trade. So far as I know, there have been no complaints of the certificates issued by Mr. Cameron, although we have had many about the certificates issued by a certain individual called McLeod who has no official status.

As regards the German tariff and the embargo on our cattle, these subjects are a little foreign to this work, and I am no more responsible than the other ministers with regard to these matters. I would be glad to see an entry for our Canadian produce in any foreign market, Germany included, but I am not prepared to advocate the sacrifice of our preference to Great Britain in order to obtain access to the German market, and in that I have the consensus of opinion of the country behind me. Regarding the embargo, I should be very glad to do anything to have it removed.

It is an unfortunate thing it exists, but it is a matter which the English people are discussing to-day in their own parliament and among their own people. It is better for us Canadians to stand aloof

from that discussion and let them work out their own decision on the matter without any interference from the outside.

At six o'clock, Committee took recess.

### After Recess.

Committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. J. A. DUBEAU (Joliette). (Translation). I entirely approve of this vote, which will help the hog-raising industry and consequently the production of bacon which I consider of the most vital importance, not only for the county of Joliette, whose representative I have the honour to be, but also for other parts of the country where the dairy industry is flourishing.

As to the importance of the hog-raising industry, I could not prove it in a better way to this House, than stating that there are presently in Canada sixteen packing establishments where hogs could be packed at the rate of 60,000 to 70,000 a week, but on account of the limited supply of hogs in certain parts of Canada, not more than 20,000 or 30,000 are turned out in a week.

More than that, England imports for about \$65,000,000 of bacon and ham each year. Last year our total exportation amounted only to \$12,197,155. Now, if the hog-raising industry had been more developed in the Province of Quebec, our packing houses, instead of being obliged to limit their operations, could have increased their exportation on the British market, and thus many millions of dollars more would have come into the pockets of our farmers, as between \$65,000,000 and \$12,197,155 there is a margin of \$52,802,845, of which Canada could benefit for a large proportion.

I will add that if our farmers were raising hogs on a larger scale, we could put an end to our importations from the States, which took out of the country last year the pretty amount of \$501,004.

But Mr. Speaker, if Canada has not yet arrived at that degree of production to which we can reach in the bacon industry, it would be on the other side, against the truth to say that this industry has not made very fair progress in our country. For instance we had in 1890, only two packing houses, where hardly 3,000 hogs were received in a week. To-day, as I stated in the beginning of my remarks, there are sixteen establishments receiving an average from 20,000 to 30,000 hogs a week.

Canada exports in England about 30,000 hogs a week, equal to a fifth or twenty per cent of the total quantity imported in England. Out of these 30,000 hogs, 25,000 came from the province of Ontario, while the province of Quebec, the Northwest and the Maritime Provinces all put together, furnish only 4,500.

For the present year the exportation will amount to about \$13,000,000. Out of this sum Ontario will get \$12,000,000, and the