

Mr. STEWART (West Edmonton): The summer months in Australia?

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac-Addington): Yes, I am glad the hon. member reminds me of that because it seems to me still more thoroughly to emphasize the unfairness of this treaty. These are summer months in Australia when the cost of producing butter there is at its lowest and when in this country the cost of producing that article is at its very highest. Surely that should be taken into consideration.

Mr. STEWART (West Edmonton): My hon. friend is speaking of exports?

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac-Addington): Exports from Australia and New Zealand and Canada.

Mr. STEWART (West Edmonton): I thought it was to Great Britain.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac-Addington): General exports. I understand. I think, from the minister's own statement that the distance from Australia and New Zealand to Great Britain is about the same as to Canada, and the time consumed in going to one place is the same as in going to the other. While these products will go in great bulk to the British market, the very fact of reducing the duty to one cent a pound, a negligible amount, will in my judgment have the result of bringing millions of pounds of butter of Australia and New Zealand to Canada at a time when our own producers of butter are working at great disadvantage and heavy cost and when they are entitled to special consideration because of climatic conditions.

The present government has not shown that sympathy for the dairying industry of this country that the people have a right to expect. The Dairy Products Act came into effect on April 1, 1923. Under that act there are twenty graders in Montreal drawing a salary of \$2,520 each, whose business it is to grade our butter and cheese according to four standards, namely, special and first, second and third; and although the act became operative on the day I have mentioned not one single pound of Canadian butter exported in the year 1923 bore any mark of having been graded. In the year 1923 the graders graded 110,513,200 pounds of cheese for export but the grade was not stamped on one single box of that cheese. I supported the grading proposition in this House when it was first mooted. Now what was the purpose of it? It was intended to maintain the reputation of Canadian butter and cheese in the British market so that when our Cana-

[Mr. J. W. Edwards.]

dian butter was exposed for sale there the people would know whether they were buying either special or one of the three other grades; and the same in regard to cheese. Our factory men were obliged to submit to the grading done in Montreal, but they received no protection whatever, as they should have received by means of the stamping of the grades on the butter and cheese exported in 1923. No explanation has ever been given of this failure to carry out the provisions of the act and it indicates in my opinion a lack of sympathy and a lack of efficiency on the part of the government.

Canada has made great strides in dairying. I am very glad indeed to have the opportunity of stating that men from my own part of the country, from the counties I represent in this House, have contributed greatly to enhance the reputation of Canadian butter and cheese in the Old Country market. At the Royal Dairy Show in London, England, in 1923 the first prize for colonial cheddar cheese was captured by Mr. W. C. Taylor of the county of Frontenac, in competition with makers from all parts of the world, while the third prize went to Mr. James Sprott, also a resident of my county. The same year Mr. Joseph Craig, a citizen of that part of the country, captured the first prize for butter in competition with the world at Glasgow, and in 1924 Mr. Sprott captured the first prize for cheese, Mr. A. McIntosh of Lanark second prize, and Mr. B. Avery of Kinburn third prize. In 1925 Mr. W. C. Taylor, the same gentleman who took first prize in 1923, gained first prize again with Canadian cheese in competition against the world. These gentlemen did a great deal to enhance the reputation of our products in the British market.

But I can give further proof. Our cheese in 1924 brought 6s. 2d. per hundredweight more than the top price paid for the best New Zealand cheese, while in 1925 it brought 2s. 5d. per hundredweight more than the highest price paid for the New Zealand product. In other words, in those two years, on the amount of Canadian cheese exported to the Old Country, Canadian producers, by reasons of the enhanced reputation of our product due, as I claim, to the gentlemen whose names I have mentioned, received \$2,043,850 more than New Zealand shippers got, at the highest price, for the same quantity of cheese they shipped in the very same period.

In those two years we had to contend against very keen competition. As I have already mentioned, the Argentine republic is