

*Australian Treaty—Mr. Bird*

this part of my argument, as I believe he is interested in butter. We in this corner of the house are in a difficult position, we are between the devil and the deep sea.

Mr. NEILL: Name them.

Mr. BIRD: It is immaterial to my argument on which side of the house I place the responsibility, but for argument's sake we will call the protectionists the devil and the Consumers' League the deep sea, because it is far too deep for me. We have the Consumers' League whispering in the one ear and the protectionists whispering in the other, so we are in a difficult position. What does the Consumers' League say; what are the wild sea waves saying? The answer comes swift and sure. Our hon. friends opposite argue that the dairy council does not represent the farmers, that it is only composed of disguised Tories.

Mr. CHAPLIN: That is propaganda.

Mr. BIRD: Whatever the Consumers' League may be, I do not believe it is wise for them to hide their heads ostrich-like underneath the sand, because anyone who has watched the movement for the last few years among the farmers will know that protection has lifted its head. It is no use running away from a fact because it is ugly, and it is no use closing your eyes to it. That is one point upon which I differ with my hon. friend from Lisgar (Mr. Brown). He claims that that evil does not exist, that it is only manufactured, but I say it does exist and has existed for years. In 1922 the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) moved for the restoration of the prohibition on oleomargarine, and nearly all the farmers from Ontario voted against that measure. However, they went home during the recess and consulted with their constituents, many of whom were dairy people, and when they came back the following year they nearly all voted for a similar motion moved by another hon. member. During the recess the Ontario farmer members had heard the wind whispering in the top of the mulberry trees; they realized that the public opinion of Ontario was in favour of the prohibition of oleomargarine. I know that they claimed they were just protecting the women and children, but we were not misled by that. I barely escaped a beating in the corridors here for daring to say that the farmers were getting their feet into the protectionist trough. That was some time ago, but we have the same thing manifesting itself again.

Mr. BROWN: That is what I was saying about the United Farmers of Alberta.

[Mr. Bird.]

Mr. BIRD: The hon. member might well have said it about the farmers of Manitoba because that province is as much a dairying province as is Alberta.

Mr. BROWN: Not through their organization.

Mr. BIRD: My hon. friend is not acting with his accustomed wisdom when he adopts that attitude. The dairy council of Manitoba is in this thing just as much as is the dairy council of Alberta. The officials of the Manitoba organization who attend the meeting of the dairy council of Canada are well known, and they have not been stamped into this thing. The idea of protection is deeply rooted in the mind of the Manitoba farmer, as well as in the minds of the farmers in the rest of the Dominion, and they have to be dealt with. Why has the farmer taken this stand? It is because he has been disappointed with his politicians. For years past the farmer has been expecting the different governments to give him some relief, but they have been disappointed in that expectation. We may regret it, but we must face the fact that in recent years there has been a definite trend toward the idea of protection. The farmers to the south have been protectionists for years; the farmers of Dakota have been protectionists for years, so why not the farmer of Manitoba? The proper way to meet this evil is to face it, and the only way the Liberal party can meet it is to do it boldly. If that party desires to retain the support of the farmer there is only one way in which that can be done, and that is to prove to the farmer it is apprehensive of the conditions under which the farmer labours. I am not going to belabour my Liberal-Progressive friends as some of my hon. friends have done; I do not think mutual interchange of that kind helps very much. The hon. member for Lisgar and his friends have a perfect right to be where they are; they represent their constituencies as much as I or any of my hon. friends in this corner do ours, but there is only one thing they must do, and that is show they are dealing with the evils from which the western farmer suffers. By their fruits they will be judged and not by any academic arguments of ours. I am content to leave the matter at that. I hope they can bring home the bacon. It is the bacon we want.

Mr. DUNNING: I thought it was raisins

Mr. NEILL: Ham and eggs.

Mr. BIRD: The vitamin content is very much the same. They whisper and say to us: