

were concerned this extension to the treaty was carried out in a secret manner, but I want to strip from this discussion with regard to the Australian treaty the smoke screen from behind which both parties have been trying to snipe at the farmers and get them to ask for protection. I am not blaming the Australian treaty altogether for the condition in which the agriculturists of this country find themselves to-day; that it has been unjust to agriculture goes without saying, but I blame the Liberal party for its callousness in raising the cost of living and increasing the cost of production to our farmers. At the same time I blame the Conservative party for capitalizing the present state of agriculture and seizing on the New Zealand part of the Australian treaty to confuse our farmers, while neither the Conservatives nor the Liberals care one whit for agriculture. They have taken this action to confuse our people into asking for a protective measure which will be to their disadvantage.

I hold in my hand a letter from a friend of mine whom I have never seen, which I desire to read in order to clarify the situation. He says:

I duly received your letter of March 1st, and I am glad I did not answer it before as I now send you a clipping from yesterday's Toronto Star which will go to show you the big business that would profit by a 4 cents duty on New Zealand butter. If, as I read recently, the Canadian market is the highest priced market for butter in the world, with such a price that butter shipped from New Zealand to England can be profitably reshipped to Canada and, at added steamship and rail transportation charges be profitably sold in Ontario towns, it does not look as if the dairy interests of Canada were suffering. It is the big interests, such as this proposed merger or its intended component parts, that would principally profit by the 4 cent import duty, and the consumer would pay that and more for his butter and would be more firmly in the grasp of the hand of the producing monopoly.

I am not and never was a farmer, but have always contended the farmer was the worst paid man on the job. Let me ask you to get the Atlantic Monthly for March and read "A Dirt Farmer Speaks His Mind." I feel the same way as the dirt farmer.

That is signed by George E. Davis, of Brockville.

This is really the first time in the history of Canadian agriculture that the political parties in this house have advocated protection on an agricultural product, and which apparently would give the farmer a price fixing power, but we should tear off the mask of hypocrisy which covers this whole question. Let the farmers see the grinning monster which is behind this demand for protection on butter at the present time. Let it be under-

stood that the Canadian farmer is not the one who is asking for this protection; it is being asked for by some of the same gentlemen who profited on the anguish of this nation during the war. They are again directing the raid on the rights of the consumers, and in all probability are getting ready for the next war. Let me read a clipping from the Toronto Star of March 17 of this year:

A chain of dairies having one control and stretching across Canada was brought one step nearer completion when the Dairy Corporation of Canada, by a \$650,000 deal bought control of two dairy product companies in Regina and Winnipeg. It is expected that one or more of the Ontario dairies will also be absorbed by the corporation.

Then I should like to read another clipping from the same paper under date of March 10, of this year:

A creamery merger in Ontario of plants worth approximately \$2,500,000, engineered by English capital, is expected to be announced by cable to-day. . . . The largest creamery concerned is to be Flavelle's Limited at Lindsay. Some fifty of the two hundred plants in Ontario are concerned in the move which aims at cheaper operation and greater production, with more centralized control. The plants extend from Carleton Place in the east to Petrolea in the west.

It is learned to-day on good authority that five large English financial houses are to be partners in the merger. One of the shareholders already has a large stake in the dairy business of Lovell and Christmas, at Montreal, one of the best known houses in Canada. Another of the English firms behind the Ontario creamery merger is the Maypole firm, which runs one of the largest chain store businesses in the world.

Here is the cream of the whole thing:

Consequent to the creamery merger will in all probability be a movement for raising the duty on New Zealand butter, now one cent a pound.

The sum total of these things is the demand for a duty to be placed on butter. The Liberal party consummated the Australian treaty about the same time as the Liberal party in Saskatchewan was manipulating the co-operative creamery concerns in that province in such a way as to bring them under private control. The thing is growing and will grow until there is to be one great merger stretching across the country which will be a manufacturing business with the high protection given to everything else. I hope the people of Saskatchewan soon will see through this creamery muddle, that they will not be caught in the round-up which is being engineered by the protectionists of this Dominion who are trying to bring together the several lines of agriculture and have them demand protection. The farmer is not asking for protection.