

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): My hon. friends laugh, and I heard the new Minister of Railways (Mr. Dunning) say, "Isn't this awful?" Let me inform the Minister of Railways that during the month of March to date we imported from the United States 1,734,651 dozen eggs, under a tariff of 3 cents per dozen. Let Canadians ship their eggs over to the United States and find out what treatment they will get from that country.

Mr. DUNNING: Because the price is higher here than it is there.

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): The United States imposed a tariff of 12 cents a pound on butter going into that country in order to protect their own producers. What has happened in the case of this country? During the three months of this year, 1926, under the treaty negotiated by hon. gentlemen opposite, there have been imported into Canada no less than 4,406,610 pounds of butter from Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. DUNNING: And the price was higher than anywhere else in the world.

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): The argument of the Minister of Agriculture seems to be: The more you bring in the higher the price will be. In consequence of heavy exports of Canadian butter somewhat of a shortage was created in the home market. This was followed by a rise in price with the result that we are now up against competition from Australia and New Zealand, who are shipping large quantities of their own butter into the Dominion bonused by Australians to the extent of 6 cents per pound. The inducement held out to soldier settlers, and others engaged in the farming industry is, "Keep down the tariff on butter to one cent a pound and permit of subsidized imports from abroad and everything will be well." During the month of March, up to the present, the 29th, we imported 1,165,232 pounds of butter from Australia—

Mr. CANNON: I rise to a point of order.

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): —to compete with the butter which should be produced by our own people.

Mr. CANNON: Unless my hon. friend, Mr. Chairman, promises to conclude his remarks soon I call your attention to rule 19.

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): It is not to be conditional if it is a point of order.

Mr. CANNON: It will be peremptory. The rule to which I desire to draw attention is No. 19 which contains the following paragraph:

It is a wholesome restraint upon members to prevent them from reviving a debate already concluded; and it would be little use in preventing the same question from being offered twice in the same session if, without being offered, its merits might be discussed again and again.

I have heard my hon. friend speak at least fifty times on the question of Australian eggs and butter.

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): Well, Mr. Chairman, I hold in my hands the returns from the Department of Customs dated yesterday, and the minister never heard me discuss this matter before.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

The CHAIRMAN: I would ask the hon. member to keep as near the subject of the resolution as possible. I am quite sure that now his attention has been drawn to the point he will do so.

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): I rose to point out that the government, as a result of their own actions, have been largely responsible for the conditions which prevail. Instead of providing a real remedy or cure for those conditions they are now seeking to advance a scheme which will make possible by appointees of the government a supervision over the cancellation of the loans advanced to these men who are on the land, and in that way they will be able if so disposed to control them politically.

Mr. BROWN: Is the hon. member under the impression that this scheme provides for the lending of money?

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): It provides for the cancellation of loans—

Mr. BROWN: My hon. friend had better read the resolution.

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): —which makes it much more objectionable. It provides for a reduction of the obligations of these men with respect to the amount they owe on these lands. I do not know what else my hon. friend (Mr. Brown) could term it. The resolution is one that certainly is necessary in order to relieve distress, and we might just as well understand the cause of that distress now as at any other time. The situation has become so acute that the prospects for the future are far from bright,