

culty might be overcome by imposing rigid export regulations. I am not sure exactly what we have in Canada to-day, but evidently our regulations are not as rigid as those of Australia and New Zealand. I have an article here which was written by Cora Hind, who was sent to England to study the butter situation in 1922, and in part this is what she said about the butter market:

These Liverpool merchants had nothing very cheerful to say about Canadian butter. They paid too high last year and also state they had great difficulty in disposing of the butter. The texture was good, the packing excellent, but it was reported to have a "back flavour" which was unsatisfactory and made it very difficult to move. Wall and Company had handled some thousands of boxes and their butter expert told me they had lost heavily; he stated that Canada should endeavour, as closely as possible, to approximate the flavour of New Zealand butter, and this advice was also endorsed by Mr. Pery.

I have also a clipping from the market report of James Gillanders, of London, which says:

There have been one or two lots of Canadian butter arrived on the market recently, and the quality generally has proved very satisfactory. The system of grading has no doubt a lot to do with this, and although the prejudice on Canadian butter owing to trouble in previous years prevents buyers speculating on this class of butter, yet on inspection they are willing to pay comparatively good values.

The clipping gives some prices for Canadian, which are considerably below the New Zealand figures. I have another quotation from the Grocer, of London which says:

The present season has witnessed an unusually heavy import of Canadian butter. In a general way the butter from the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta proved superior to the article produced in the eastern provinces, and commanded a higher price. This goes to show the value of united effort as exemplified by co-operation between the creameries and the provincial governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and these provinces have very efficient systems of government grading. Canadian cheese maintains its high position on this market, and it appears to be the aim and object of the Canadians to place their bacon and butter on the same plane.

Now, Sir, this extract from the London paper is perhaps well worthy of consideration. At the present time we are told that our customers overseas are not able to buy our products. I find on reference to the trade and navigation returns of the United Kingdom for the year ending 1923 that the imports of Canadian butter—shown in hundredweights of 112 pounds—for that year amounted to 39,834, whereas for the previous year the figures were 154,532, a very serious drop. In the face of this Denmark shows a pretty heavy increase. There is also a considerable increase from the Netherlands, from the Argentine and a very heavy increase from New Zealand. It seems to me, therefore, that

something should be done to cope with this situation. I notice that New Zealand recently passed regulations under which no butter can be exported without a license. That is the exporter must have a license, and in order to secure that license and to retain it after it has been secured there are regulations with which the butter man must comply. I think we shall have to establish something along that line if we are to maintain the standard of our butter on the British market. The total imports of butter into the United Kingdom for the last three years show a steady increase. In spite of that we are losing this market for our butter year by year, our export in pounds for 1922 amounting to about 17,000,000 whereas last year it only amounted to 4,000,000. Perhaps the minister could tell us something about the regulations that are in force at the present time, and if it would not be possible to establish some export regulations that would not interfere with the butter sold locally in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: My hon. friend has touched upon a point of considerable interest. That is the ready disposition of New Zealanders and Australians to not only impose severe regulations but to comply with them in order to put New Zealand and Australia on the map in the matter of butter and dairy products generally. The reports of both Mr. Wilson and Mr. Ruddick indicate that Australian and New Zealand dairymen are ready to submit to anything in reason that the government imposes upon them if it is going to help them to make a better product. My hon. friend is quite right. The butter men of those countries have to have licensed stamped grades and to comply with the strictest regulations. They do so because they know it helps them to put their butter on the market in better shape. In Australia they have the handicap that we have except in this respect, that they have a number of state governments but they have not a federal government overseeing them. In some respects it is an advantage because there is no overlapping, there is a continuous regulation by the respective governments. New Zealand, not having the federal system and having only one government can control the situation and enforce the regulations better than can be done in both Australia and Canada. Now, in this country—we have noticed it only this afternoon during the discussion—people feel as irksome the restrictions that are imposed upon them in connection with the different activities we are discussing. If we imposed upon Canadians the kind of restrictions they