

*Foot-and-mouth disease*

**Mr. Rowe:** As the hon. member for Lake Centre suggests—we must not provoke the United States of America. I can remember the then minister of finance, Mr. Dunning, saying: No, no, we must not provoke, we must not retaliate. We can put in countervailing duties later on but we must not retaliate. But this new champion of the agricultural industry of Canada right off the bat says that we will retaliate, that at a time when we wonder how long this epidemic is going to last we will tell them that they cannot send any more beef into Canada, no more beef in cans, on the hoof, under the hide or out of the hide. Nothing more can come in now. What a difference a few years makes! We must not retaliate, we must not provoke the United States of America in 1929, but in a matter of twenty-four hours we have provoked them now. Why? I ask the Minister of Agriculture. I ask the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture. It will not make five dollars difference to the 500 head of fat steers he is feeding now because he knows, as does every other hon. member who is a cattleman, that even if you do not put a ban against United States beef no beef cattle will come into Peel, Middlesex or Dufferin-Simcoe from the United States of America. Why is that so? Because as a result of the negligence of the department to some extent and the disaster that has occurred beef has dropped 12 cents a pound. Do you think the United States people are going to rush their cattle over here to sell them in a market where the farmers of Ontario cannot sell? Why? There is no market there now. We are only trying to feed them. We can give them lots of cattle. The hon. member for Middlesex West could flood the market in one week if he wanted to. I appreciate his loyalty in keeping his cattle off the market for the benefit of other cattlemen who are not as close to the problem as he is. But why was this done?

**Mr. Sinnott:** Come on, get up on your hind legs and answer him.

**Mr. Rowe:** I know you have nothing to add to this. If you add anything to it in your style it will detract from it. Every hon. member within the sound of my voice knows why it was done. The kindness of the hon. member for Fraser Valley, who is always very kind, prevented him from telling you why. He knows that his own province of British Columbia only produces 10 per cent of their beef requirements. He quite properly said today: Why should we be forced to accept beef until we know that our wildlife and our dairy cattle of the Fraser valley are secure? Why should

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

members from the province of Quebec accept them? It is true it might temporarily help the beef producers of the province of Ontario to be able to send beef to the province of Quebec, but right at the present time, when there is a little suspicion concerning two or three districts in the province of Ontario, I do not blame the province of Quebec for saying that they are going to wait until they are sure that they can import healthy animals from the other provinces. They at least have the sovereign right to prevent it and they are going to prevent it.

But without coming to parliament, without asking those of us who represent the people, three hours in advance of the meeting of the house today the Minister of Agriculture says that he will ban the importation of beef. He may think that the Ontario beef producers and farmers on the back concession lines will think he is working with them but the people of British Columbia and Quebec will know so well that the only purpose it could serve would be to starve them into submission and make them accept beef whether or not they thought it was dangerous. It does nothing so far as helping the beef producers of Canada is concerned.

The market is shot anyway but for a few weeks the province of Quebec can certainly get its beefsteaks and other beef, which they can well afford to buy. They can get beef for their lumber camps, beef for their fancy hotels in Quebec City and Montreal in the same way as other provinces that have plenty of beef. As the hon. member for Fraser Valley knows, British Columbia can get its beef from the United States at least for a few months until this thing settles down. But now, on twenty-four hours' notice and outside of parliament, the Minister of Agriculture announces that we will stop beef coming into Canada knowing that beef will not come into Ontario anyway but preventing it from coming into Quebec and British Columbia so as to starve the people there into submission. If you do not let United States meat in you will eat Newfoundland flippers or something else instead of roast beef.

**An hon. Member:** A fate worse than death.

**Mr. Rowe:** The Dominion of Canada has rapidly been growing into a great storehouse of purebred livestock. In the last few years we have produced more high-class livestock and increased our production to a greater extent than any other country in the world. France, Belgium, the Argentine, with the drought she has suffered in the last while, and other countries in South America are