

asking for this information. He wants information that affects his part of the country, I suppose, more particularly, and I also want it for my part of the country. Cheese, butter, hogs, potatoes and vegetables are the most important commodities in so far as my district is concerned. I cannot believe for one minute that the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) and the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) went to Washington without having had all these statements laid before them, showing the business that was being done with other countries in these articles. If my hon. friend the Minister of Customs had these statements when he went to Washington, why does he now not lay them on the table of the House? Why should they not be printed? We have appealed to the right hon. the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and to the government several times to give us some information, so that we could judge as to whether this was a good arrangement or not, but we have not so far been able to get any information other than the little blue-book showing the changes in the tariff. President Taft has submitted to the members of Congress a little book showing the comparative prices or values of farm products in Canada and the United States. He has started at the Atlantic and gone through to the Pacific. Will the Minister of Customs deny that that statement is not correct? It shows that the values in Canada are much higher than they are in the United States. It shows that it would be an advantage to the American farmers to get into this country because the prices of farm products are higher in Canada than in the United States. The Minister of Customs must have had that information when he made this agreement, or if he had that information, he must have known that he was selling out the farmers of this country, body and bones, to the American farmers. Why could he not give us this information? In my opinion the Minister of Customs knows that he was gold bricked when he made this arrangement, and that an investigation made since the conclusion of the negotiations shows conclusively that the statement is true, that prices of farm products are higher in Canada than they are in the United States. The minister finds that the farmers are getting better prices here, he knows that if the tariff wall is thrown down they will get lower prices, and he is afraid to submit to this House the information which we are anxious to secure because he knows that it condemns his agreement. The minister could send his officials from one end of this Dominion to the other and get this information, but the very fact that the minister has not got this information and has not laid it on the table convinces me, as it convinces the farmers of this country, that he

is afraid to undertake that task because we would not be able to see that the statement that the farmers are getting better prices in Canada than in the United States, is borne out by the evidence. I have no hesitation in saying that the prices of farm products in Canada to-day are higher than they are in the United States, and that the value of farms in Canada is higher than it is in the United States. What is the reason the minister will not give us this information? He has not given us any information except that for which he has been asked in the House. Is he afraid to give us a pamphlet like that which the President of the United States has laid before Congress? Yes, he is afraid to do it. He knows he could not face the farmers with such a statement as that. I think it is time for the Minister of Customs to do something of this kind. He has all that information in his department, we are entitled to it, he should bring it down, and if he does he will never try to shove this reciprocity agreement through.

Mr. BLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I think we have proved this afternoon that the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) is not in possession of all the information that was necessary in forming the agreement. I asked the plain question on the orders of the day this afternoon whether or not oleomargarine, an article that will come into competition with the butter made by the farmers of Canada, would be admitted free under this new agreement. In the United States, this is a very important industry, so important that the government have a revenue of over \$2,000,000 per year derived from a tax upon this adulterated article that comes into competition with the butter made by the farmers of the United States. One would have thought that the Minister of Customs, when he was at Washington would have looked into this question. When an important industry such as that is flourishing in the United States, bringing this adulterated article into competition with the butter made by the farmers of that country, surely my hon. friend, in making this agreement, would have considered whether or not this article was to be admitted into Canada in competition with the butter made by our Canadian farmers. My hon. friend says this afternoon in answer to that question, I don't know.

Mr. PATERSON. I said, No.

Mr. BLAIN. He said, No, then hesitated, and finally he said across the House to myself, 'Put a question on the Order Paper, and I will give you an answer.' One would think that a question like that could have been answered at once by one of the gentlemen who were at Washington with three months' time for consideration. My hon. friend did overlook