

Mr. STEVENS: I must thank my hon. friend for the very moderate and—shall I say?—very encouraging language in which he has discussed this matter.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Do not say too much. I might break out any time.

Mr. STEVENS: I quite appreciate that, but I am duly thankful for present mercies. My hon. friend has inquired as to the falling off in our trade in export cattle this year as compared with last. There is undoubtedly one broad, general reason for that, the collapse of world markets, including, of course, unfortunately the market for live stock. It is discouraging to see a dropping off in the export of live cattle for the moment, but we have very high hopes that with this adjustment and the smoothing away of the differences between the two countries—and I share in the hope for an improvement in the conditions of monetary exchange—there will be a marked improvement in the export of live cattle as well as of other products.

Mr. COOTE: Has the minister figures of shipments of cattle to the old country in recent months?

Mr. STEVENS: I have not under my hand the recent monthly exports, because I did not expect that question to come up.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Does this simply mean that the thirty-day quarantine is removed in respect to the importation of cattle for feeding purposes? Is that all the article provides for?

Mr. STEVENS: My hon. friend was not present when I read a very long description of every detail.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I just wanted a short answer.

Mr. STEVENS: It covers many things. We have just gone over it all.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I will see it in Hansard.

Mr. ELLIOTT: If the minister has not the figures of the number of cattle exported, can he give the value in dollars and cents of our shipments for the months of October, September and August last? I did not get quite clearly just when these new regulations came into effect. I suppose they came into effect when the agreements were tabled?

Mr. STEVENS: They come into effect upon the ratification of the agreements, and our information is that the agreements have now been passed in Great Britain and are

actually in effect. In regard to the importation into Great Britain of cattle for the calendar year 1931, which would cover pretty well the full shipping season from Canada, there were exported from the Irish Free State 738,967 head and from Canada 26,991 head.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Are those the latest figures the minister has, those up to the end of December, 1931? Has he no figures for the first part of this year?

Mr. STEVENS: I have not the recent figures under my hand, because I did not expect this question to come up. For the first three months of this year about 2,000 head were exported, but there have been more since.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: A little over 16,000 head to Great Britain, and a little over 7,000 head to the United States.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: As I understand it, the only two countries which have been in the habit of shipping cattle to the United Kingdom have been the Irish Free State, in very large numbers, and Canada, in very small numbers. In view of conditions existing as between Great Britain and the Irish Free State at the present time, and the recent imposition of a very high rate of duty on cattle from the Irish Free State, Canada's trade may greatly benefit, but I would like to point out again from an actual definite experience last year the precise effect in dollars and cents of the exchange situation on trade.

Last year the cooperative organization which acted as selling agent for the different cooperative pools in the western provinces entered into an agreement with the British wholesale cooperative, the essence of the agreement being delivery of a stated number of Canadian cattle every week throughout the year. In the shipment of cattle into Great Britain one condition prevails with fair regularity from year to year, namely that in certain months prices in Great Britain as compared with Canadian prices are fairly high and fairly profitable, and in other months the Canadian price is generally higher than the British price, taking into consideration the cost of shipment. Then there are the months in between, with prices shading off on one side or the other. That has always been the great difficulty which prevented our Canadian cattle from establishing themselves on the British market. The British people were not particularly interested in our cattle trade because it was so haphazard. To establish a liking for Canadian beef it was necessary to make quite certain