

They claimed that if the disease existed in the state of Maine, that state ought not to be allowed to disseminate it throughout the rest of the United States. They have been making another move. I find in this morning's Citizen the following despatch from Washington:

Washington, April 28.—Federal quarantine against Maine potatoes, effective August 1, next, has been declared by the Department of Agriculture, it was announced to-day, because of the prevalence of powdery scab. After August 1, no common or Irish potatoes can be shipped out of Maine except under regulations of the Department of Agriculture.

That ought to convince even such a skeptical gentleman as my hon. friend from Muskoka (Mr. Wright) that these people in the United States at least have some belief in the course of action which they are taking, and that it is not all for the purpose of being unfriendly to the potato growers of the Dominion of Canada. It is so easy for a man to twist the tail of the lion when he goes around the lodges in some of the back country districts that, when he comes to the House of Commons, he forgets that he is not on his native heath; he forgets that in the Parliament of Canada his arguments do not altogether fit in with conditions. I think that is the case with my hon. friend from Muskoka. He believes that every man in the United States is born with hoofs and horns, and that his sole object in life is to be unfriendly to the British Empire. We do not believe that; I do not believe it for a moment. In my judgment, the people of the United States are the shrewdest, brightest commercial people in the world; I give them credit for being the greatest successes in the commercial enterprises of the world, and I am willing to admit that they are probably as selfish a class of people as will be found anywhere. I do not want to paint the picture whiter or blacker than it ought to be. They are shrewd, enterprising people; they are looking to the interest of the American people every time, and they will never allow themselves to come second, if possible. I think I have correctly portrayed the condition of affairs that existed at that time. I see only one ray of hope in this whole question, which is that evidently the United States Department of Agriculture does not intend absolutely to prohibit the export of potatoes from the state of Maine into the rest of the United States, if we believe this despatch to be correct,

because they cannot be shipped except under certain regulations of the Department of Agriculture. I want to know why our Minister of Agriculture cannot take advantage of that olive branch, and see if he can not in some way have those regulations applied to Canada. I do not believe there is any disease in the potatoes from Prince Edward Island. Do not be afraid to approach the United States Government; they will not bite, nor kick, nor do anything like that. They may not give you the best end of the trade; but I think we have long since fought out all this nonsense about the 'two flags,' 'under which flag,' and all that sort of rubbish. Let us get down to business. The people of the United States have shown that they are not half as bad as my hon. friend from Muskoka thinks they are. They have taken the duty off our cattle, our hogs, our sheep, our lambs; they have cut in half the duty on our hay, and they have reduced the duty on our barley. They say: The moment you take the duty off your wheat, we will take it off ours, and they say the same thing with regard to potatoes. They have held out the olive branch to us in a greater degree than has ever happened before in the memory of any hon. member. They want to trade with us. I admit that the people of the state of Maine do not want to trade with us in so far as potatoes are concerned; but I believe that the President, the Government and the great majority of the people of the United States want to trade with us in so far as potatoes are concerned. I believe, however, that they have an honest intention of trying to prevent the spreading of disease throughout their country. If they believe that this disease exists, how can we find fault with them for trying to prevent it from spreading? Believing that the people of the United States want to trade with us, I cannot see anything derogatory to the dignity of the Minister of Agriculture, or of his Government, or of any government, or of any official of any Government of Canada in going to the United States and seeing if some arrangement can not be made whereby our potatoes can be admitted into the United States under the same regulations under which potatoes are admitted from the state of Maine. We have found scab in New Brunswick and in Quebec; and they have found scab in the state of Maine. I know that for the last two months they have been allowing potatoes to be shipped from the state of Maine under certain regu-