

I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that the twenty-four boats of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine should be reconstructed and placed at the service of the cattle trade of this country in order to give it the encouragement it needs, for I want to tell the Minister of Agriculture that western Canada lands will run to weeds if the live stock trade does not get more consideration in the future than it has had in the past. Travel through that country and you will find many men who have gone out of the live stock business, and it is because of the excessive charges that have been placed against it. I have been engaged in the cattle trade, Mr. Speaker, for a great many years, but I am not talking from any personal standpoint, because I have retired from the export cattle trade. I have been charged with speaking on this question from the point of view of my own personal interest, but that is not true, because I am not going back into the export cattle trade, in which I have already spent forty years; but I am ready to give the minister the benefit of the advice I have gained in my forty years experience and to help him solve this question of high freight rates, so as to encourage the production of live stock in western Canada. The live stock trade is important to any country. Wherever you find feeders of live stock, there you find a prosperous country. I might take you, for instance, to Scotland, or to the United States, where they are clamouring for our cattle, and would like the market opened. I do not care about seeing our young cattle go to the United States, but I do not mind getting an open market in the United States for the heavier class of our cattle, and when we can produce cattle in this country like we can in the west, I want to see this basic industry of ours fostered and helped to prosper, and to bring back the conditions in the west that ought to prevail once more. We have a fertile land, Mr. Speaker. Take the live stock off the farm, and you have a poor farm. I want to see diversified farming in this country. I want to see some value placed upon the cow. In Ireland they value the cow. They made her the guest of honour at a banquet in Ireland, but we have not placed full value on her in this country. To-day Great Britain is clamouring for the entrance of our Canadian cattle, to augment the food supply of the British Isles with the milk from our cattle. Very little work on our part with the British government could secure the entry of the Canadian cow into the British Isles. Imagine dairy cows selling for between £30 and £40 in England, while they are sacrificed in our markets at \$30 or \$40. These are the con-

ditions against which the men in western Canada must contend, and I would urge upon the Minister of Agriculture to take the matter up with Lord Bledisloe the British Minister of Agriculture in the House of Lords with a view to having some action taken to remedy the present state of affairs. I know from my experience in the Old Country last winter that very little work on the part of the government there would get our Canadian cows into the United Kingdom. Ireland has a monopoly of the cattle industry in the matter of females. The little Kerry cow fetches from £30 to £40 in the Old Land while our Canadian animal is sacrificed at a ridiculously low figure. Before September, 1892, when that stigma was placed upon our cattle, eastern Canada and the three prairie provinces enjoyed a wonderful trade in the dairy cattle. We raised females for dairy purposes with an eminent degree of success. The herds in England in many localities are depleted as a result of the ravages of foot and mouth disease which is rampant throughout the country. In Cheshire, for example, where this disease has been particularly severe, practically the entire herds of the district have been wiped out. So that we could very well secure a lucrative trade in supplying dairy cattle to the Old Country. At the present time meetings are being held in Scotland by various agricultural societies, but I have so far been unable to see a single thing done by this government to look after our interests in this matter. Hon. gentlemen on the other side apparently are not bestirring themselves to get our Canadian cow into the British Isles.

The value of the cow has not been recognized as it should be. We do not seem to appreciate all that the cow has meant to Canada; she has played a wonderful part in Canadian history. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that Wall Street recognizes to the full the value of the cow; it appreciates what that animal has done for the great United States. Yes, the cow is the mother of prosperity. I do not want my legal friends to become impatient of this eulogy of the cow. They may not know it, but one of these animals was placed in Central park, New York, on one occasion to teach the people in that great metropolis the obvious fact as to where milk came from, for some of them had the idea that it was obtained from a can and not from a cow. I do want the Minister of Agriculture to think a little more of the cow, and I appeal to him strongly to do something in the interests of the cattle industry in the west.