

Mr. COTNAM: Is it the policy of the government to allow the continued importation of New Zealand butter?

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I hope the house will agree to accept the following motion:

That this house shall not be adjourned at eleven o'clock to-day.

There is a possibility that we may conclude even before eleven o'clock, but I think it is advisable if the proceedings go beyond that hour that we should be at liberty to sit at least as late as we did last night.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Until twelve?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: By unanimous consent. Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Johnston in the chair.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: My hon. friend (Mr. Cotnam) wanted to know whether we would continue the policy under the order in council, applying the Australian treaty to New Zealand. The Department of Agriculture has never undertaken to enunciate government policies; that would be a matter for the government.

Mr. COTNAM: Does not the Minister of Agriculture, as such, know the policy of the government in that respect?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: No; I am not commissioned to make any reply in regard to either the Australian treaty or its application to New Zealand.

Mr. COTNAM: Then perhaps the minister knows his own mind in the matter. Does he think that the Australian treaty is beneficial to the Canadian dairy farmers as well as to the mixed farmers of Canada, particularly in Ontario and Quebec?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: That is a matter of opinion, I expect.

Mr. COTNAM: I should be glad to know the opinion of the Minister of Agriculture. That is a fair request; he knows his own mind.

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): Mr. Chairman—

Mr. COTNAM: Just a moment; I want an answer to that question.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I will make a careful survey of the situation.

Mr. COTNAM: Does the minister mean that while he is making that careful survey the Canadian dairy farmer is to be penalized to the extent of having his market taken from him through the importation of almost thirty million pounds of New Zealand butter every year?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: There is an extraordinary revival of butter making in Saskatchewan and the west generally. During the past four or five months the manufacture of butter in Saskatchewan has more than doubled each month. So that I shall have to reserve my opinion on this question until I see how things work out this summer.

Mr. COTNAM: Am I to infer from the minister's answer that he thinks the treaty beneficial to the dairy farmers, of Saskatchewan at any rate? I am prepared to say that it has not worked out to the advantage of the dairy farmers of Ontario. I can assure the minister that the dairy farmers of Ontario feel very keenly the loss of this market for their dairy products. Perhaps the reason for a part of the immigration which is taking place to-day is to be found in this very fact. Many of our farmers are becoming discouraged in their endeavour to carry on their dairy operations when they seem to get so little cooperation from the Department of Agriculture and this government.

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): It appears to me, after listening to the discussion to-day, that the opinion prevails in some quarters that because the National Dairy Council receive a grant of \$5,000 per annum from this government, the government is in duty bound to accept its fiscal policy from that council. I confess I cannot see the logic of that argument. In my opinion any organization receiving a cash grant of public money from the government should keep strictly out of politics. I understand that this organization has been actively engaged spreading political propaganda of a kind not acceptable to a good many people in this country and in this house, and I suggest that before any money is paid to this council they be required to