

portance, and demands the attention of the Government so that the ranges of our country may be properly protected. The hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Lister) said he thought there was no danger of this occurring as long as the customs duty remained, because cattle coming across the line would have to pay duty to the Canadian Government, and then, after being fed and when taken across again to the other side, they would have to pay duty to the United States Government. Well, Sir, I have been informed on good authority by ranchers that arrangements have been made with the United States authorities whereby cattle which are allowed to come across to our side of the line for pasture did not pay duty when they are taken back again. If such an arrangement has not yet been made, and if the ranchmen of Montana can benefit by such an arrangement as that, we can easily suppose that the United States Government and the United States officials will be sufficiently patriotic to help out their stockmen in that way. So it is our business to make such regulations in our own interests as will protect our own ranchmen.

There is another class of stock that I think is worthy of more consideration in regard to quarantine regulations than perhaps it has received, and that is horses. I should like to point out to the House that there has been a very considerable importation of horses with glanders into the North-west. Our farmers and ranchmen have lost severely by the importation of diseased horses, and while there has never been any quarantine applied to them in the past any more than there is now. I think it is desirable that efficient quarantine measures should be passed in regard to the importation of horses coming in from the United States. I urge this the more for this reason, that there is in the ranching country of their west a superabundance of cheap horses. The ranges are eaten down by horses having little or no commercial value. In some quarters it is stated publicly, and it is a fact, that horses are absolutely shot simply to get rid of them, so that the grass they would otherwise eat may be eaten by cattle that have commercial value, which horses have not. That condition of affairs prevails not very far south of the boundary line; so if there is a natural tendency on the part of Montana ranchers to allow their cattle to drift north of the line, there is a still greater tendency on the part of those ranchers to allow this cheap class of horses to drift north of the line. The customs duty offers very little hindrance, because it is an ad valorem one, and if the horse is only worth a dollar in Montana, the amount of duty cannot be sufficient to keep the animal on the other side of the line. So it is more necessary when there is, and it is going on now, a practically unlimited drift or importation of cheap horses from the United States to

Canada, and inasmuch as they are of little value, and as they are likely to be contaminated with disease, a regulation should be framed to protect our ranchmen and farmers from the importation of these cheap horses. To sum up, I ask, without prejudice either for or against the Government, that the quarantine regulations in regard to sheep be made sufficiently stringent to protect our flocks against scab, and that the regulations in regard to horses be framed so that it will afford protection against the disease called glanders. In reference to cattle, I repeat, that so far as Alberta is concerned, the cattle in that country have not suffered by the abolition of quarantine, but if it has had any effect it has been a good effect, and the cattle industry to-day there is more profitable as to prices than it has been during the past two or three years.

Mr. DAVIN. I wish to say a few words in reply, or rather not in reply because the weight of argument on both sides of the House has been for the contention that I ventured to place before the House. My hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) has brought to bear the powerful aid of his authority, and representing as he does the greatest ranching constituency in the North-west, he can speak with more than common authority, and with the qualification that he does not wish to be understood to say anything against the Government, he has supported entirely the contention I ventured to place very modestly before the House in regard to sheep, and has made a very strong plea to the Government to protect the country from that dire and dreadful disease of glanders in horses. Having my hon. friend's support in regard to sheep, and having the support of other hon. gentleman who could also speak with some authority, let me say a word in regard to the one point on which there seems to be a difference of opinion between my hon. friend and myself, and that is with regard to cattle. My hon. friend says there is no danger of the cattle interest being injured by these quarantine regulations because the price of cattle is better in Macleod than it has been for some time. I would remind my hon. friend that the price of cattle always goes up in the spring; and the fact that the market of British Columbia is as good as it was before the quarantine regulations, which are only a month old, went into operation, is really no argument against the fears which I have endeavoured to express on the part of ranchmen south of Regina, that is to say south rather of Moose Jaw, at Willow Bunch, Wood Mountain and south of Maple Creek and of Medicine Hat. Their fears, are that our ranges will be invaded; but my hon. friend says that they may be protected by other means than quarantine. If the Government come forward with another method to protect our ranges, that will meet the wishes and desires of my constituents and of myself personally. I cannot