

vigilant it will not be long before we are placed in the same position in this matter as our neighbors across the line. If we lose the advantage that we now possess we will lose the 20 per cent. of profit that we derive in this trade from not being scheduled. The cattle that we send to England are of a superior quality. They fetch \$88 a head. An hon. gentleman here told me that he shipped 500 head of cattle, that had never been fed grain, from his ranche, and they averaged \$90 a head. I think I have said sufficient to show the necessity that exists to take every precaution to maintain the existing advantage we enjoy.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I do not think my hon. friend has at all exaggerated the importance to this country of the precautions which we have hitherto taken with regard to the import of animals from the United States. The figures which he gave sufficiently demonstrate that it is already one of the most important subjects upon which we could possibly legislate, and it is increasing daily in extent and will ultimately become probably one of the largest, if not the largest, of the productions for export by the Dominion of Canada.

HON. MR. READ—It is now the largest article of export—larger than products of the forest or anything else. In the Trade and Navigation Returns for the year ending the 30th June last the amount in value of animals and their produce exported was \$23,894,707.

HON. MR. REESOR—Larger than the manufactures.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—We do not profess to manufacture largely for export yet; we are seeking to develop our manufacturing industries, that we may do so hereafter. We are glad to encourage the cattle trade in order to find the means of paying for our manufactures among other things. I was under the impression that some one or two articles of export still exceeded in value the export of cattle.

HON. MR. READ—This report does not show it.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Probably the balance has been disturbed by the increase since 1888. We derive a decided advantage in the price of our cattle in the English market from the privilege that

we possess of having them landed alive. My hon. friend has shown that last year we exported to England eighty-five thousand head of cattle. These cattle are generally the choicest animals that we produce. It is said that the average of these cattle runs up to between twelve and thirteen hundred pounds, and that the advantage in price is equal to about a cent a pound or more. Hon. gentlemen may not realize exactly what that amounts to. A cent a pound on eighty-five thousand cattle, averaging thirteen hundred pounds per head, is equal to \$1,003,000. This money goes into the pockets of our farmers; they would not get it if this country were placed in the same position as the United States, and all other countries except the two to which my hon. friend refers. We have an advantage over all other countries, but those two, which amounts already, at our present rate of export, to \$1,000,000 per annum more than the corresponding quantity of cattle would produce from any of the four great cattle-producing countries that my hon. friend mentioned. There already of course has been a great deal of trouble and a good deal of negotiation in order to bring us to the position which we now occupy, where we possess the confidence of the English people that our cattle will be protected from disease, and that theirs will be protected from infection. And in consequence of this confidence we are allowed to export our cattle freely to England, to land them alive, and to have them freely dealt in on the same footing as British cattle. The only importation of cattle into Canada which we permit is that of cattle for breeding purposes, and such cattle are subjected to a rigid quarantine for three months, with perfect isolation, in stations, of which we have two only, one at Quebec, the other at the Detroit river. The only concession of the slightest kind that has ever been made with reference to the importing of cattle from the United States to this country has been the permission to carry cattle in our railway trains from the United States at one point to the United States at another point through our country. These cattle are carried under regulations which are agreed upon with the Privy Council. The negotiations therefor were conducted in England by Sir Hector Langevin and myself,