

of the history of this question, because it has had a long history so far as negotiations in regard to the cattle trade are concerned. But first let me say a word as to the first part of the subject which the hon. member for West Assiniboia discussed, namely, the sheep question, in which the western districts are, if we are to believe their representations in papers submitted to the department, very greatly interested indeed. Under the late Government representations of a very urgent nature were made that on account of the scab which was prevalent in the territory across the line, a quarantine should be established in regard to the importation of American sheep. At first it was asked that a ninety-day quarantine be established, and afterwards it was agreed upon that possibly a shorter time would prove to be effective in keeping out that disease, which the sheep-raisers of Alberta, particularly, were very anxious to have kept out. Whatever may be said with regard to the policy of the Government, and of its popularity in other sections of the country, I venture to say that if the Government have entirely abandoned the sheep quarantine as regards those territories, it will be a move against which the sheep-raisers of Alberta will determinedly set their faces. Now, as to the cattle quarantine, it is important to look at this subject in view of a statement which was made by the Minister of Agriculture, whose absence I regret, equally with the member for West Lambton. Last year when this subject came under discussion in the House, some conversation took place across the floor as to whether the Government had absolutely abandoned the policy of securing the removal of the embargo enforced against Canadian cattle. At that time the Minister of Agriculture, in answer to a question put by myself, declared that he had not at all abandoned that policy, but that he had a firm hope that he would eventually succeed in getting that embargo against Canadian cattle removed. I take it, from the policy which the Government has pursued, that they have at least absolutely abandoned that hope, because the Government are quite aware that in the abandonment of the quarantine against American cattle, they can no longer with a shadow of reason entertain the hope of securing the removal of the British embargo against our cattle, which was imposed in 1892. Sir, I must say this, that I do not think they are abandoning much, because, after the conferences which I personally had with the Department of Agriculture in England, I was convinced that the attempt to secure the removal of that embargo was a vain attempt, and any hope we might have entertained of securing the removal of that embargo was a hope practically without foundation. But it is just as well for the country to understand the intimation which is unmis-

takably given in the removal of quarantine against American cattle, that the Dominion Government has abandoned even the effort to secure the removal of that embargo which has worked so strongly and effectively against the interests of Canadian cattle. I now want to refer for a moment to a statement made by the hon. member for West Lambton (Mr. Lister) as to the credit which should be given to the Dominion Government for this very prompt and important action on their part in securing reciprocity, so far as this matter is concerned, not a reciprocity involving the absolute abandonment of the duty or of any duty, but the mutual removal of the quarantine between this country and the United States. The hon. member for Lambton knows very well that there is not a very great deal of credit due this Government for that work. I am willing to give the Government any credit due them on any subject, whether of an agricultural or any other nature, but the hon. member for Lambton must know, and the Minister of Agriculture must know that that quarantine was never put up on account of the action of the United States in quarantining Canadian cattle, but it was put up because of the action of the Canadian Government against the United States for the protection of our herds from disease, and we maintained the quarantine against American cattle, not for the purpose of obstructing trade with the United States, but because we always hoped and fondly hoped that by keeping up that quarantine against American cattle, which was one of the requirements of the arrangements made with the Imperial Government, we would maintain the health of our herds and would finally secure release from the embargo, and entrance into the British market, and such an advantage, for one hour, would be more beneficial to the Canadian farmers than access to the local market of Buffalo from now till the end of the century. Sir, when credit is spoken of as being due to the Government, I am bound to say that in five minutes we could have secured the removal of the American quarantine against our cattle, simply by saying to the United States Government: We will take down our quarantine and give free admission to your cattle. But we maintained it with a view to secure the greater market of Great Britain, which was of immense advantage to the Canadian farmers. I am not saying that the question cannot be argued from both sides. When I looked at it, I considered it with the view that there were two sides to the argument. If we were to abandon the hope of securing the removal of the embargo in Great Britain, if there was good hope of securing the removal of that embargo by keeping up the embargo against American cattle, then the question was not one for argument, the facts and advantages were all on one side. But if we were to abandon the hope of securing the