

*Foot-and-mouth disease*

caused consternation among all the livestock breeders of Canada. I refer not only to the breeders of cattle for slaughtering, but to those who raise dairy cattle, swine, sheep and horses.

Why, even the Americans who have been in this country racing their horses this past winter cannot take those horses back to the United States. Some of us who have entered horses in United States races find we cannot take them to participate in those races.

Then we see what is being done by Quebec—and I do not blame that province for what it is doing. At least the premier of Quebec is not afraid to do what he thinks is right, when he sees an issue at stake. He does not want the game in that province contaminated. He does not want the dairy herds of Quebec contaminated. And, naturally, as a precautionary measure, he says, "I am going to prohibit the importation of beef from Ontario." That is not aimed particularly at Ontario. True, it does not help those of us in Ontario who are in the beef cattle business. However, that is the prerogative of the premier of Quebec. That is in line with his views concerning the provincial autonomy that he is zealous to protect.

Then the hon. member for Fraser Valley has said that they have a perfect right in that province to protect themselves—and so they have. They have a right to protect the Fraser valley, and those other districts in British Columbia that are prosperous through agriculture. As the hon. member has said, they have the right to protect the game of the province, because he knows what the consequences would be if that action were not taken.

I can well remember being in the house on other occasions when the United States market has been closed to the great beef cattle industry of Canada. But, Mr. Chairman, what a change a few years make! I can remember the time the Fordney-McCumber tariff was put into effect. That was in 1922, I believe, when we lost half our market in the United States. Those were the days when the ranchers in western Canada were almost panicky, as were the cattle producers in Ontario.

Then, I can remember when the government was asked to do something to stop the importation of canned beef from the United States, and we were told, "Oh no, we must not do that; they are a friendly country, and it might lead to international complications." I remember, too, the famous Hawley-Smoot tariff which, overnight, cut us off from the United States market.

**An hon. Member:** And do not forget 1911.

**Mr. Rowe:** You should forget it, because you got your answer at that time. I remember that as well as you do. But I am not going to be sidetracked by little interruptions like that, or by any references to reciprocity. What I am interested in is the attitude of this government. I am interested, not only as a livestock breeder, but because of my interest in other matters. From this point on, perhaps my interests as a livestock breeder would not be of such great concern. But I am interested in those boys and girls in this province who are still livestock breeders and who tonight are discouraged, depressed and almost in despair. I am interested in looking towards the future, and to what will happen.

I have been amazed by what I have seen at times. I have sat in the house many years, and sometimes I wonder why I come here as often as I do.

**An hon. Member:** We all wonder.

**Mr. Rowe:** Well, my hon. friends may laugh.

**An hon. Member:** Very seldom.

**Mr. Rowe:** Even if it is very seldom, I think I am a lot more useful than you are when you are here. I say this, in all kindness to the government. Surely while parliament is in session, and if this is going to continue as our democratic system of government, it is not necessary three hours in advance of the sitting of the house for a minister to say that he would rather talk on the radio than talk in parliament. And I say that in all kindness to the Minister of Agriculture. One must admire his political technique. If I had had it, perhaps I would be farther along in public life than I am. But there is no one more nimble or more vociferous than the right hon. gentleman. That is why I know he must think he has a weak case when his voice is so mellowed as we heard it this afternoon. But on the radio this morning he says to the livestock breeders of Canada: I am going to ban United States beef coming into Canada. Oh, Mr. Chairman, I remember the occasion in 1929 when we asked the then minister of agriculture to institute a tariff against canned beef. Seventeen million dollars worth had come into the country. I remember the late Right Hon. Mr. King saying "oh, no". He was just as smooth as the present Minister of Agriculture, in fact a little smoother. They were a pair of scholars and one tried to mimic the other. Now that he is no longer here the Minister of Agriculture is making up for the two of them. At that time the answer was: Oh, no, we dare not raise the tariff.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Provoke the United States.