

FARMING CONDITIONS IN THE EAST AND WEST.

and better markets. It is very difficult for a private individual to make an exhaustive examination of prices. He can only be expected to go into a limited number of subjects, and his information must necessarily be limited. I have made as careful an examination as I could of the prices of the various staples which the farmers of Canada sell in the open markets, and I have before me the result of that examination. It is not necessary that I should enter into any considerable number of details, but will give you a few of the conclusions which appear to be absolutely established by the facts. First, I will take hogs, one of the most important products of the province of Ontario. The average price in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec is better than it is in the United States. As far as cattle are concerned the prices are variable, and as far as eggs are concerned the prices of the better grades are higher, and of the other grades, lower. It is said that the market for lambs will be good if we get reciprocity with the United States. From the 1st of December up to the present time lambs have been cheaper in Chicago than in Ontario. The best creamery butter sells at a higher price in the United States, but all the lower grades are cheaper, and it seems to be quite clear from an investigation of the market conditions by those who are familiar with the subject, that we shall lose our local market for butter and eggs—in the case of eggs to the United States and in the case of butter to countries like New Zealand, Denmark and possibly Australia.

HAY IS HIGHER.

While we may get an advantage by selling a small portion of the higher grade of the product to the United States, we shall lose upon a great portion of the lower grade, which, as everybody knows, is the greater proportion of the product. In poultry the higher grades will be higher and the lower grades will be lower. Hay is the one product that is substantially higher in the United States than in Canada. Barley is higher and oats lower. Looking over the whole case, it is not possible to figure out any general and specific advantage to the farmer in getting these markets even if we take prices as they are without having any reference to the general effect upon the market which may take place in other ways. As to the quantity, everybody knows that there is a perfectly good market for all that our farms produce. There is no glut in the market of Canada if the produce is reasonably prepared, and if it is not reasonably prepared for the market then the United States market will be of no assistance to the man who allows himself to be in that position.

AGAINST MEAT TRUST.

Then, there are some general features of

the case which require to be considered. This, Mr. Chairman, is a conclusion which you cannot possibly escape. Under this arrangement, which means free trade in farm products, the markets for farm produce will be absolutely dominated by the United States and favoured nation countries. There can be no possible question about that. The meat packing industry will be destroyed. What is happening in some other places? I have taken a clipping from the Ottawa 'Citizen' of February 25th, which has since been confirmed by other information. It is not a political article, but a Canadian press cable, and it is as follows:

"London, Feb. 25.—A despatch to the 'Chronicle' from Melbourne says the federal Minister of Trade and Customs declares that the Australian commonwealth will spare no expense to 'oppose sinister operations of the American meat trust in seeking to control the Australian trade.'"

The American meat trust in Australia and New Zealand is so sinister in its operations that the Government of the commonwealth has to take the field against it, and we are here taking down the barriers and inviting it to come in and dominate the markets of Canada. That trust will oppress our farmers, it is not a beneficent institution, it is not a philanthropic institution, and when it dominates the market, we will say of Ontario, and any hon. gentleman on this side of the House or on the other side of the House finds that the farmers of his constituency are not getting fair play in the matter of prices, may I ask what that gentleman will do, may I ask what his remedy will be, may I ask how he is going to apply that remedy if he has any? I do not know what the remedy will be. The head office of your trust will be in Chicago or New York, it will be outside of our jurisdiction and there is only one thing we could do, just one thing—we could put the duty back where it is now and start all over again to build up the local industries which we are threatening to destroy.

SUIT UNITED STATES.

The whole tendency of this arrangement is to induce the farmer to adapt his raw product to the United States market. The whole tendency is to do away with the by-products which are so essential for intensive farming, the whole tendency is to break down the system of interrelated industries which makes the present prosperity of the province of Ontario and the other provinces. Under that system, Mr. Chairman, brought about by the policy which my hon. friends upon the Treasury Benches have pursued for the last 13 years, the great province of Ontario raised \$250,000,000 worth of farm produce last year and nobody heard that