

It would mean higher prices, together with all the other advantages of markets nearer home than those to which they have been exporting in the past. Unrestricted Reciprocity would mean to them a market of 90,000,000, plus their own home market of 8,000,000; together with the markets of the British Empire. Among the free grains would be barley. Barley was a large and profitable crop, even in Ontario, years ago, but the high American tariff has practically killed its cultivation. The exorbitant duties which are imposed on other commodities entering the U. S. have proved very great hardships to the Canadian farmers. The duty on barley has been 30c a bu., half its value; on hay from \$4 to \$6 a ton, half its value; on potatoes, 37c per bag, half their value. From these facts it is quite clear why the Canadian farmer should be so anxious for the destruction of that artificial wall through which the American legislator has shut him out from his natural market. But our honourable opponents will say that although the farmer would be benefited, other interests would suffer. You all know the old and true saying, "do away with the farmer, you do away with the nation." The policy of the worthy upholders of the negative would probably be to build up the manufacturers, but we have some regard for the industry that is the foundation of our nation. The farmers of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces have now a home market of 5,000,000; under Unrestricted Reciprocity they would be given what is practically a home market of another 25,000,000 in the Eastern United States. It does not require any laboured argument to prove that the immediate benefits to them would be enormous, and as the prosperity of Canada is established upon the prosperity of its agriculturists, those immediate benefits would extend to all other lines of industry. With farming made more profitable in Eastern Canada, there would be greater inducement for men to stay on the land instead of migrating to the U. S. or crowding into the cities and increasing the number of unemployed. And, again, with greater returns for their labours, the farmers would have more money to spend on manufactured goods.

Now, with regard to the products of the sea. The Americans want our fish, and we want to sell them. We want to sell our fish at a better price, and we can do this only by having them placed on the free list. The opening of the markets of the U. S. and Porto Rico would inevitably lead to a great development of the Maritime fishing industry; it would encourage the ship-building industry all along the Eastern Canadian coast, and it