

would remind them perhaps not so much of the Mississippi as of the La Plata. Notwithstanding our population is so small, and we are comparatively a poor and young country, we have a railway which is quite as good and a great deal longer than any railway in the United States. We have in the Maritime Provinces a great many things that would naturally interest these people. In Quebec, and here at Ottawa, there are vast quantities of lumber, and possibly these gentlemen, if they had come here, might have seen their way to doing something towards assisting to open up a trade in lumber with their native countries. In the lower Provinces they would perhaps have seen opportunities to do something towards improving the trade in fish and coal between those Provinces and their own countries. I think that as the expense would have been small, and as their coming here would have avoided the necessity of sending, within a reasonable time at least, delegations to the countries from which they come, it would have been money very well spent, and only a very judicious as well as a courteous act to have invited these gentlemen to come to Canada before returning to their homes. I trust that the Government, with the thoughtfulness of the reputation and public interests of the country for which they are so remarkable, have not omitted to issue these invitations.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I quite agree with my hon. friend that it would have been courteous for the Government to extend an invitation to those delegates from the South American countries, but as my hon. friend says, it might not have had a very beneficial effect in extending the trade of the country. I am glad that my hon. friend on this occasion has not, as he has done on former occasions, spoken disparagingly of the resources of Canada, as far as trade with other countries is concerned.

HON. MR. POWER—I have never spoken disparagingly of Canada.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—On many occasions I have been obliged to bring him to book for speaking disparagingly of Canada. I am glad that my hon. friend thinks there are many resources in Canada which these distinguished gentlemen from the south would be interested in

seeing. If they had come to Canada they would have returned to their homes with a better idea of the Dominion than generally prevails abroad, and it might have tended to increase the little trade that we have with South American ports. In Nova Scotia we have some trade with Brazil, and the ventures that we have made in lumber and fish have, on the whole, been successful. I hope that our trade with South America and the West Indies will be extended, and there will be reciprocity in trade between those countries and Canada, notwithstanding the tariff which my hon. friend thinks is such a barrier to commerce.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—In answer to my hon. friend from Halifax, I have to say that the Government did not take the same view of its duty that my hon. friend does, and taking all the circumstances into consideration, the Government did not deem it expedient to extend any invitation to delegates to visit this country. I am sure the House will perceive that the reasons why they did not think it their duty to do so are not exactly subjects that we could well discuss here, but I rather think that the great majority of the members of this House will thoroughly appreciate those reasons without their being stated. With regard to wool, the wool produced in those southern countries is admitted free. It is only on the coarse wools, such as are grown in Canada—the combing wools—that any duty is imposed.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PENITENTIARY.

ENQUIRY.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—Before the Orders of the Day are called, I should like to know from the leader of the House if he is prepared to give an answer to the question that I put the other day?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I enquired into the possibility of procuring for my hon. friend the evidence which was taken by the hon. Minister of Justice and the hon. Secretary of State, and I find that it is impossible to do it. The subject was gone into by my hon. friend the Minister of Justice in the other House last Session, upon an enquiry by the leader of the Opposition, and the facts were stated in detail, and are to be found in the Common's