

contains a greater population than the whole of Canada. These counties lie almost due south of the County of Leeds, with the St. Lawrence river between. They have practically the same soil and climate as the County of Leeds, and the pursuits are almost precisely the same, namely agriculture and dairying, with some manufacturing. The advantage, such as it is, lies with the New York counties, as their population is more dense than that of Leeds, and the towns in them are larger than the towns in the Canadian county. In order that there may be no charge of political bias in the investigation, Mr. Taylor suggested that "one or two Reformers be chosen," which was done. The gentlemen selected were practical men of good standing in the community, whose testimony would have been unimpeachable. Unfortunately, these gentlemen attended the Liberal Convention held at Ottawa, on the 20th and 21st June, and on their return home, **backed squarely out of their engagement** and declined to be members of the Committee. The reason assigned for this was, that if they went they would feel in honor bound to report truthfully on what they saw, and if this happened to be unfavorable to the position taken by the Liberals, they would be accused of being traitors to their party. It is to be regretted that these gentlemen allowed themselves to be influenced by their party leaders; but the fact that such influence was used is very conclusive evidence that those party leaders had no desire to ascertain the truth or falsity of their statements that the American farmer was more prosperous than his Canadian brother, and that they feared that free and impartial investigation would show that there were no grounds for any such contention, but that, on the contrary, the position of the Canadian farmer was, on the whole, better than that of his neighbor to the south of him.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

After the defection of the Liberals selected, Conservatives were appointed in their places, and the Committee was finally constituted as follows: Andrew Gray, Esq., farmer and Warden of the united counties of Leeds and Grenville; John A. Webster, Esq., farmer, Reeve of the front of Leeds and Lansdowne; John Connor, farmer and cheese manufacturer; Alexander Atcheson, farmer, President of the South Leeds Agricultural Association; John Roddick, miller and farmer, ex-Reeve of Leeds and Lansdowne (rear); Thomas Berney, agricultural implement dealer, ex-Reeve of rear of Young and Eascott; John Franklin, farmer and President of the Farmers' Institute for Brockville Riding; E. G. Adams, Esq., farmer and implement dealer, ex-Reeve of North Crosby, and John R. Dargavel, general merchant and Township Clerk for South Crosby. These gentlemen spent three days with Mr. Taylor in St. Lawrence and Jefferson counties, and have presented the following report, which is given in full, merely omitting Mr. Taylor's letter, which is given above, and which is quoted in the report: