

range and value of the preference as regards the Canadian producers, but we fully and freely recognise that it is for this country to decide what is in the interests of its people and to act thereon.

Next in export importance among the grains comes barley, of which Canada normally produces sixty to seventy million bushels, and exported to the United Kingdom last year about ten million bushels.

Milling, particularly of wheat flour, ranks high among Canadian industries. It is closely and naturally connected with our agricultural industry. The production of flour normally runs about 15,000,000 barrels; last year our exports reached nearly 7,500,000 barrels, of which nearly 5,000,000 came to the United Kingdom. The industry is capable of very great expansion if greater markets are opened. Flour is, of course, a commodity of which the production and milling capacity in Great Britain is large. The effect of a duty would, therefore, depend very largely upon the extent to which the Canadian miller was put in a less advantageous position than the British miller; a duty which was distinctly protectionist rather than preferential would not, in the long run, we believe, be as advantageous to