

"In short, I believe that what the hon. gentleman is aiming at is to make political capital with the electors and to catch popular favor rather than appealing to their reason. Let my hon. friend allow me, in all due deference, to call his attention to the fact that in the Province of Quebec, as elsewhere, farmers have a great deal of common sense. Go through the county of Laval and ask the market-gardeners if they can produce cucumbers, celery, tomatoes, and cauliflowers in the winter months, and they will tell you that they cannot do so."

Further on, answering the hon. member for Laval, the Minister of Public Works of that day used the following language:

"My hon. friend knows very well that, even if additional duties were imposed on pease, tomatoes, cucumbers, and other vegetables, that would neither improve the climate nor enable us to grow those vegetables to advantage during the winter months. The increase in the duties asked for by my hon. friend would only result in forcing the consumer to pay more for those products, without improving the condition of the Canadian producer. To my mind, such a proposition is preposterous."

Mr. Tarte so spoke with evident sincerity, and with a practical knowledge of the facts and circumstances connected with this industry, and in spite of his outspoken predilection for higher protection on the general list of importations. And in that attitude he was quite consistent. The protection on these products, that had existed for eighteen years, was in 1897, and is still maintained. The total imports of vegetables for 1903 including potatoes, were \$703 389, which paid duties to the amount of \$190 690, or 27 per cent. The question of the further increase of this protection, in favor of about 10 000 gardeners in the vicinity chiefly of Toronto and Montreal, against a consuming population of 700,000, is, we think, a fair question for the proposed Fielding Tariff Commission to decide after hearing all parties interested.

Indian Corn.

Take another item—Indian corn. But little of this can be raised in Canada. In the greater part of the Dominion stock owners find it more profitable to turn their Indian corn into ensilage than to attempt the uncertain task of ripening it for grain. The crops of Indian corn for ensilage supply our farmers with a greatly increased quantity of roughage for their stock, and therefore enable them to keep more stock than they used to. For the profitable finishing of this stock, however, they require concentrated feed, and the corn now imported free from the United States enables them to economically fatten their stock. The import of Indian corn is a great advantage to the farmers of Canada, and has assisted especially the live stock industry, which is the basis and mainstay of the agricultural prosperity of the Dominion.