

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. PUGSLEY: While it is pleasant, in one aspect of the case, to find that the minister has such a roseate view of the future, there is one thing that is a little deplorable, and that is that the minister seems to have been touched with the microbe which has been afflicting the other ministers, and he feels now that we on this side of the House should join with hon. members on the other side of the House and encourage him to bring down Supplementary Estimates giving him all the money that he desires to carry out his roseate ideas. I am beginning to despair somewhat of even the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Has it not seemed pitiable that the minister should be seeking in all quarters of the world to advance the trade of Canada, that he should be educating young men from the universities, that he should be educating one especially, to advance the interests of Canadian trade and commerce in Italy, sending others to the West Indies, sending these gentlemen to all parts of the world to seek to secure trade for Canada, while right down here to the south of us, Sir, is a great country with a hundred million people affording to the people of Canada every opportunity for trade, every opportunity for the advancement and promotion of commercial intercourse that any people would desire, a country whose trade, so far as Canada is concerned, even during the period that this Government have been in power, and when they have sought by every means at their command to hamper and prevent trade with that people, has yet advanced by leaps and bounds. In the year ended March 31, 1915, the trade of Canada with the people of the great republic to the south of us surpassed by about \$170,000,000 the trade of Canada with all the rest of the world put together. What a marvellous showing that affords of how trade can be developed if you seek trade with people with whom you will naturally have commercial intercourse. Let me give the House the figures for the year ended March 31, 1915:

Total imports of Canada	\$ 629,444,894
Total exports	490,808,877

Total foreign trade	\$1,120,253,771
-------------------------------	-----------------

The total trade of Canada with the United States during that year was \$644,026,253, and the total trade of Canada with the rest of the world was only \$476,277,518; so that we had about 170,000,000 more trade with the United States than with all the other countries of the world combined, Great Britain included. Yet, notwithstanding

[Mr. Pugsley.]

these facts, the minister has not told us to-night that he has done anything to encourage trade between Canada and the republic to the south of us. He has not told us what action this Government has taken with respect to that trade. If he had told us, it would have been a story of trying to hamper trade instead of encouraging it. You know as I do, Mr. Speaker, that the great hope of this country depends upon the development of our fertile, wonderful Northwest. There in the three Prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta you have a country which would make not one European empire but which is large enough and wealthy enough in resources to make three European empires. And yet, knowing, as these gentlemen do, knowing as in his heart the Minister of Trade and Commerce must know, that the best means of developing that country, the best means of getting immigrants into that country, the best means of enabling to grow up there a large and contented population, is to give to the producers of the West free access to the markets of the great American republic, this Government has persistently refused to place upon the statute-books a law which would open the markets of the great country to the south of us to the farmers and cattle-growers of our western lands, a step which would be the means of advancing to a far greater extent the commercial development of this country than all the commissions and all the emissaries that my hon. friend could send to all the countries of the world. And yet they claim that they are in favour of increasing our trade.

Mr. BLAIN: Does the hon. member think that the Canadian people made a mistake in 1911 when they voted against reciprocity with the United States?

Mr. PUGSLEY: In my judgment they did make a mistake. But the results have not been so disastrous to the people of Canada as they would have been had it not been for the fact that the Democratic party in the United States were victorious in the last election and to a large extent opened their markets to our people. As a result of this we are able to send our lumber into the United States free of duty, the duty on oats has been reduced from fifteen cents to six cents a bushel, the duty on cattle has been vastly reduced.

Mr. TURRIFF: It has been taken off; and the same with hogs.