

cessary to have a certain percentage of Manitoba hard wheat for that purpose. Then, the American milllugg interest want access to that market for the purpose of stiffening prices—for the purpose of introducing there the system that is in force in the United States. American millers tell me that wheat from Canada and Argentina, when it goes to market must be sold, as there are no facilities for holding it. They are constantly met by competition of this kind, which lowers prices; and they want to get into this market with their hundreds of millions of capital for the purpose of competing with the Canadian buyer, for the purpose of buying the grain at higher prices than it would otherwise command, in order that they may hold that grain or the flour into which it is ground until they are ready to sell it; in that way controlling the market, and preventing repressive bear operations, which tend to bring about lower prices. In both of these cases it is the interest of the North-west and in the interest of Canada that they should get into that market. For these reasons, free trade in wheat and the introduction of American competition in the purchase of wheat in the North-west, would be worth more to the producers in that country than the removal of the British preference of four per cent in their favour.

The present value of the American market, aside from wheat, is relative small; but its prospective value is almost limitless. Changing conditions in the United States are worthy of consideration. First of all, there is the gradual failure of their wheat lands. I can remember the time when the chief crop of Illinois was wheat, when enormous shipments were made, when the elevators of Chicago were hurstling with the products of the Illinois wheat fields. To-day there is not enough wheat raised in Illinois to provide bread for one-half the inhabitants of the state. The farmers have gone out of the business; their wheat fields have become exhausted; their crops are of another kind. The same holds good with regard to Iowa, with its two and a half millions of inhabitants. The same will soon hold true of Minnesota, of the two Dakotas, of Kansas. The wheat production of these states is diminishing, the soil is becoming exhausted; and while the wheat production of the United States is growing less and less, the population of the country is rapidly increasing, and the urban population out of all proportion to the rural population. Take, for instance, the North Atlantic division, as it is called—comprising the states of New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, with a total population, according to the last census, of twenty-one millions. Of this population 13,600,000 are in towns of 4,000 inhabitants and over. In the state of New York, out of a population of 7,268,000, 5,360,000 live in towns of 4,000 inhabitants or over. Here, Mr. Speaker, are these vast centres of population, five millions and more

in the single state of New York, thirteen and one-half millions in the North Atlantic division, living in towns of 4,000 and upwards, and the population rapidly increasing, and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec nearer to those centres of population than any other producing region on the continent. To reach these centres the farmers of Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa, have either to cross our territory or to go past it on the south side of the lake; and our North-western farmers will have just as good facilities for reaching those centres as the American farmers of the far west. This is a question the importance of which we only begin to realize when we come to study it carefully, in the light of all the facts; not taking the superficial view that some take, or the prejudiced view of those who think it is beneath the dignity of a Canadian to deal with an American at all; but looking at the facts from a common sense standpoint, with a realization of the great possibilities that lie before us in the near future. The United States will soon become a food exporting nation, its vast manufacturing interests are being developed with wonderful rapidity, its urban population is increasing out of all proportion to its rural population, and the time is near at hand when that country will require from Canada or other countries, a portion of its food supply. These two countries are geographically one. Our North-west is geographically a portion of the Mississippi valley.

Mr. GOURLEY. I deny that.

Mr. CHARLTON. The province of Quebec is geographically as nearly allied to the New England states as to the mouth of the St. Lawrence.

Mr. GOURLEY. The United States is geographically an annex of Canada.

Mr. CHARLTON. The province of Ontario has its nearest route to the sea across American territory.

Mr. GOURLEY. No man who studies the map would make such a statement. Study the map of North America, and you will find that the United States is geographically an annex of Canada.

Mr. CHARLTON. Then the annex has got a little ahead of the main body. The two countries, I repeat, are geographically one.

Mr. GOURLEY. Never.

Mr. CHARLTON. The very boundaries between the two countries for a part of the distance which separate them, by the impediment of physical nature, serve to bind them together as a great highway of commerce from the point where the St. Lawrence reaches the American territory, to Duluth. Our North-west is geographically a part of the Mississippi valley, a part of the same country that sweeps up from the Mississippi to the Arctic ocean, a great con-