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Flavelle, Joseph W.

An open letter addressed to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, by Mr. J. W. Flavelle, (which appeared in the Toronto Evening "News" of June 18, and the "Farmers' Advocate" of June 23, 1910).

Toronto, June 18, 1910.

Hon. J. S. Duff,
Minister of Agriculture for Ontario,
Toronto.

Dear Sir,—

Why are food products at extreme prices in Canada and the United States? Both countries (Canada in particular) are advertised the world over as being possessed of boundless acreage of cheap lands. Agriculturists from Europe are urged to come to Canada, where land can be had at a minimum price. They are advised that the cost of raising farm products is so moderate that older countries with high-priced lands, cannot successfully compete. Notwithstanding these statements, congested Europe is now being supplied, or is supplying itself, with many lines of staple food products, at prices below present values in Canada and the United States. At different times during the past year, imports from Europe into these two American communities have only been stopped by the high tariff against such importations. Eggs, butter, poultry, bacon, beef, are being sold in continental cities and in Great Britain, at prices in some instances equal and in others lower than are current on this continent.

It is strange that there should be so much confusion as to the cause of the extreme prices of these food products on the American continent. There may be warrant for sharp differences of opinion as to the causes, which have led to lessened production in Canada and the United States, or as to where the chief emphasis should be placed for the disinclination of farmers to produce greater supplies, but there can be no intelligent difference of opinion as to the fact itself. There is but one cause: Present production gives an insufficient supply to meet present demand.

It is singular that journalists, who so readily write with authority concerning food products, and officials in departments of agriculture from the Minister down, have so signally failed to understand the character and causes for the increased demand which has so overtaxed the available supplies. No serious consideration has been given to the added demand, occasioned by the