

Mr. EDWARDS: I am making a statement. I said that the hon. gentleman would not deny my statement that the United States is the largest exporter of meats in the world. Does he wish to deny that?

Mr. TURRIFF: If the United States is the largest exporter of oats, it is a very large importer of Canadian oats, on which it pays a duty, and of cattle also, though they get the cattle free.

Mr. EDWARDS: The hon. gentleman does not deny my statement.

Mr. TURRIFF: No, it is true.

Mr. EDWARDS: Very good, then we agree on that?

Mr. TURRIFF: Yes.

Mr. EDWARDS: I did not think he would deny it. I repeat that the hon. gentlemen said that the United States was the natural market for Canadian meats.

Mr. TURRIFF: Yes.

Mr. EDWARDS: I say that that statement is illogical in view of the fact that the United States is the largest meat exporting country in the world.

Mr. TURRIFF: They buy our cattle.

Mr. GRAHAM: They also buy our raw material.

Mr. EDWARDS: If the hon. member for South Renfrew will take the trouble to look at the figures for the last two years he will find that, immediately after the duty was taken off cattle, there was a rush of cattle from Canada to the United States, but he will also find that that rush did not continue and that there was a considerable falling off.

Mr. TURRIFF: Where are they going?

Mr. EDWARDS: I maintain that it is illogical to say that a country such as the United States, which is unquestionably one of the greatest, if not the greatest agricultural country in the world, a country which has an exportable surplus of farm products, is the natural market for our farm products. Instead of being the natural market for Canada, it is our chief competitor in the markets of the world.

Mr. COCKSHUTT: It is the unnatural market.

Mr. EDWARDS: As my hon. friend says it is not only not the natural market for Canada, it is an unnatural market. The natural markets for the products of this

[Mr. Turriff.]

country are, I repeat, those countries which do not produce the same kind of articles, and the best kind of trade that we can develop is with the countries which will take articles from us which they do not produce, and which will sell to us articles which we do not naturally produce. That is the proper basis of trade.

But hon. gentlemen opposite, with their famous reciprocity agreement which they wished to place upon this country, proposed to throw Canada open to the surplus production of all the agricultural countries of the world. That is what they proposed to do, and had the people of Canada not voted them out of power, had the people of Canada endorsed that policy, what would it have meant. It would have meant that the farmer of Canada would have been certain of one thing: that he would always receive for his product the lowest price paid in any country in the world, because, if the price of any farm product in Canada became high enough to be an inducement to the farmers of the Argentine or of the United States, or of any other country to send their products here, their products would be sent here. The price of our farm products would have been reduced to the lowest possible level and kept there if the reciprocity pact had been carried into effect. In 1911, after giving the matter very careful consideration, the people of the Dominion said that they did not want anything of the kind; and while hon. gentlemen opposite, like the hon. member for Assiniboia, may try to make himself, and others, believe that the people of Canada want reciprocity, I venture to say that neither he, brave as he is in regard to trade matters, nor any other member who sits beside him, will venture to test the opinion of this House by a resolution on

that matter, much less to test

11 p.m. the opinion of the country, and make it an issue. They know

that the people have decided on that, and the hon. member for Assiniboia knows, as other hon. gentlemen opposite know in their hearts, in 1911 the people of Canada decided wisely.

Mr. TURRIFF: No, I do not.

Mr. EDWARDS: He knows that they decided in their best interests. There is no doubt about that; the hon. member knows it perfectly well.

The hon. member for Assiniboia referred very briefly to the question of this great war. He quoted the optimism of my hon.