

thorough investigation into the freight rates charged on all the transcontinental lines, and all lines operating between western and eastern Canada. Sir, the farmers who came down from western Canada in such large numbers a few months ago, did not want the proposition that the government are offering them to-day. They asked the government to give them reciprocity in natural and manufactured articles. The government are handing out to the farmers a proposition that they do not understand. I am satisfied of that. The farmers will understand it, they will understand before long that the proposition the government are offering to them threatens the destruction of their home market, threatens the invasion of their home market by foreign countries, threatens serious injury to our great transcontinental railway lines on which we have spent hundreds of millions of dollars, **and threatens beyond any question any future possibility of a British preference that the people of Canada are looking for, and threatens the integrity of the British Empire.**

#### REASONS FOR OPPOSING PACT.

Mr. Chairman, I am opposed to this pact—I hope I have made that clear to the house:

1. Because we are enjoying unparalleled prosperity under our present fiscal system.
2. Because hundreds of millions of dollars and the best efforts of our citizens have been invested in building up Canada as a nation, developing our agriculture, commerce, industries and finance; and the proposed reciprocal arrangement would tend to destroy our integrity and drain our resources into the United States.
3. Because our wheat, cheese and other commodities would lose their identity in the United

States, our natural products would be exported without manufacture, our national railways would be deprived of trade for which they were created, our ocean and inland marine would be seriously crippled, our canal system and our lake, river and seaports would be robbed of their commerce, while British and foreign capital would not trust itself in a country so unstable in its fiscal policy.

4. Because it would be unfair to our farmers to place them in open competition with the cheap farm labor of such foreign countries as Japan, the Argentine, Russia, Denmark, Norway, Hungary, Spain, Switzerland, and others, from whom Canada would receive no reciprocal advantage whatever.

5. Because it is unfair to place our market gardeners in open competition with the cheap black labor of the Southern States, as is proposed by the pact.

6. Because all classes in Canada would have to pay tribute to the trusts and combinations which rule the prices of food and other commodities in the United States.

7. Because in the building of our country we have made too many sacrifices, have struggled too long, have stood staunch in the midst of too many adversities, to be willing now, when the victory is won, and Canada is at the dawn of her "century" to see a foreign people reap the reward of our work, courage, patience and loyalty.

8. Because our ambition is for a strong united **British Canada**, and our country is too vast, and our population too small, to permit of any policy which will tend to weaken the ties that bind our provinces together.

9. Because the parliament of Canada has no mandate from the people to make so radical a change in our commercial policy.