

2 GEORGE V., A. 1912

Q. Has our growth of wheat been increasing? and if it increases as it has in the past what will be the result a few years from now if we do not obtain other markets than the British market?—A. I should think the British market would be over supplied.

Q. Then do you think it would be a great advantage to the Canadian farmer to obtain freedom to the American market?—A. Yes. So far as my opinion goes the most natural market for Canadian spring wheat would be south of us, in order to be mixed with the American fall wheat. They produce very little high grade spring wheat.

Q. What are your reasons for coming to that conclusion?—A. In order to mill the American fall wheat they require to mix them as we do in Ontario. We were in the milling business for a few years, in a country mill. It is necessary to mix hard spring wheat with the soft wheat in order to produce a grade strong enough for bread making purposes. It seems to me most natural that they should look for supply of that wheat in Canada. You cannot grow it very far south, and they do not grow it as a matter of fact. The wheat grown in most of United States falls under the head of soft wheat.

Q. Where do our early vegetables naturally come from?—A. From the south.

Q. Would it be hurtful to the Canadian grower if vegetables from the south were allowed in free of duty?—A. I should not think so.

Q. Would that also apply to fruits?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know of many ways in which the Canadian farmer, and the Canadian public would be very much helped by reciprocity in these natural products?—A. Certainly I know of very many ways.

Q. Do you know of one single way in which they would be injured?—A. I do not. The only grain we are interested in marketing in Ontario is barley. As a practical farmer I must grow barley whether I like it or not. I do not like it for feed purposes, it is about the poorest grain we can grow for feed. The chemists tell us it is a fairly good feed but my experience has been that it is a very poor feed. I have to grow barley because it is the only crop I can depend on for a catch of clover. If we feed it we do so at a loss. If we could find a market for our barley in United States and use the money to buy some other feed or grow some other grain for feed we would be decidedly the gainers. This last fall we were selling barley for 80 and 90 cents and at the same time it was selling on the American market, in Buffalo, for \$1.20 and \$1.25. I am told that the Ontario barley sells at a premium on the Buffalo market. There is no reason why we should not continue to grow barley. Our natural markets is across the line and our Canadian market is limited. I think the same thing applies to apples. We are hampered with our apple crop by the narrow market. Some of us who are in the apple business are very glad to have our apple trees left to us at the close of the years operations. One reason for the difficulty this year was a shipment to the Northwest of one hundred and twenty cars of Nova Scotia apples, sufficient to glut that market. It fell to my lot as auditor of our co-operative association to go into the matter and I know that it is the general experience that Ontario apples were handled at a loss. I know that a wider market would prevent that unforeseen glut. I find that prime steers were quoted in Buffalo at \$7.75 to \$8 and shippers \$6.50 to \$7.50. In Toronto the highest class of export cattle were \$6.25 to \$7.20 with a few easter cattle \$7.40 to \$8.15. The Buffalo market being higher than it is in Toronto. Generally there is a considerable difference. It is not fair to compare Toronto with Chicago. Many truck farmers welcomed the prospect of reciprocity. Turnips grown near Guelph are being shipped to the other side in the face of a very considerable duty. They are sold on the other side for table purposes. That class of farmers would be benefited greatly.