

Mr. AMES. The minister probably knows that Halifax is nearer Buenos Ayres than London.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Yes, but Halifax is also nearer Canada, and I would like my hon. friend, with his knowledge as a member of the Board of Trade—and probably one of the protesting members of the Board of Trade—to give me the name of one firm in Halifax importing wheat from Argentina.

Mr. AMES. Of course, at the present time there is no firm in Halifax importing wheat—

Mr. LEMIEUX. Let well enough alone.

Mr. AMES. On account of the duty.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Let well enough alone! Now, with regard to the export of Canadian flour, I shall quote further from this carefully prepared report issued by the Montreal 'Gazette':

In this department of the export trade the volume of business done during the past season has not been as large as the previous one, which has no doubt been due to some extent to the unsettled condition of the markets for raw material, and the keener competition on the part of other exporting countries for the business, and the fact that the present milling capacity of Great Britain is equal to their requirements, they having the advantage of cheaper labour, and to the fact that the raw material is carried at from 50 to 100 (sic) per cent less than the manufactured article from Canada. In fact, milling in England has reached a state of efficiency equal to that of any other country. Besides, they have the entire world to draw upon for supplies, consequently the English miller to-day is our strongest competitor in some of the importing markets.

So, Mr. Chairman, when my hon. friend says, as he stated a moment ago, that we are going to injure the milling industry of this country by this reciprocity convention, he forgets two facts. He forgets, first, that already there is a refund of duty on wheat exported from Canada to the milling industries of Minneapolis. Second, he forgets that our strongest competitor is the English miller, because the milling industry in England is better equipped and is favoured with lower wages and cheaper raw material than the same milling industry in Canada. I quote from that report, published in the Montreal 'Gazette':

For the year ending 31st March, 1910, Canada exported \$14,900,000 worth of flour, of which \$8,900,000 went to the English market.

It would seem, therefore, from this most reliable journal that the retention of the present body of trade with England in flour is quite problematic, and indeed the writer did not scruple to suggest that with her several advantages, notably the employ-

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ment of cheaper labour than could be got in Canada, Great Britain may be able to wrest from us some of our present markets. So it will be seen that the old mother country is not yet asleep, and I will be able to show that the centuries tilled soil of Great Britain to-day gives a greater yield per acre of wheat than does the virgin soil of Canada. Our resources vast in extent will compel us for a long time to come to seek markets for them, and we have formidable rivals in Argentina, Russia and India. In 1909 with a population almost the same as that of Canada or probably somewhat less, Argentina had an export trade of \$397,000,000 against Canada's export trade of \$243,000,000 for the same year. Argentina resembles Canada in having an enormous extent of disposable land fit for cultivation. She, Argentina, already exports more agricultural products to Great Britain than does Canada, and there is no possible limit to the expansion of her trade on these lines. Russia, both in Europe and Asia has great stretches of territory available for agriculture and there are other countries coming to be our rivals in the British market, and which have this great advantage over Canada that they have a class of labour which does not exist in this country, a white country, and which truth to tell we do not want. In North America we have a great white population living up to the same standards of civilization. We pay in Canada about the same wages as are paid in the northern and western states of the union, and therefore, we are on a common ground where as rivals we can meet and compete. This enlarged market in the United States will be only another string to our bow. When the prices in the markets of Great Britain are high enough to attract our natural products there will be no reluctance on our part to ship our goods to Great Britain. There is no fear but that the movement towards the mother country will in the future be as it has been in the past, and that taking into account our rapid expansion there will be a steadily increasing surplus of products which must find their outlet in the British market. If our farmers should profit greatly by the new arrangement, as I believe they will, the influx into our prairies from Europe and the United States, of farmers desiring to share these profits, will produce surplus enough to keep prices reasonably low and provide great stores for export. The fear is expressed that our trade will not follow the same route from east to west, but that it will take to channels north to south. This could only take place if the United States consumed all the cattle and wheat and different products we have to sell, and if we on our part replaced the British and European wares we have been accustomed to purchase by wares of a similar character from the United States. This, of course,