

States, Canada imported her sugars from Cuba and Porto Rico through the St. Lawrence direct or via Halifax, her teas from China direct or via London, and that she consumed English manufactures almost exclusively, then I would ask, whether the change in the trade, owing to which Canada is now largely supplied with these commodities by United States manufacturers and the merchants of the Atlantic cities, must not have increased the demand for food in the United States. If an Ohio farmer were to bring a thousand bushels of wheat to New York to be exchanged for groceries and domestic goods for his consumption, he would not suffer any injury from the competition of a Canadian farmer who wanted to effect a similar exchange; on the contrary, in proportion to the number of such exchanges would the profits of the merchants and forwarders be reduced, a large trade being conducted more economically than a small one. I am persuaded, therefore, that the exchange of Canadian agricultural products for domestic manufactures, sugar, tea, coffee, tobacco, fruits, &c., so far from being injurious to the interests of the Western farmers of the United States is rather calculated to benefit them; and I am moreover firmly persuaded, that should the Canadian trade be forced into other channels, as seems not improbable, it will then be estimated at its true value by the people of the United States. Though I have deemed it advisable to discuss the question as if the United States had no surplus of breadstuffs to export, I think the more correct assumption would be, that for many years, the Western wheat growers will have to compete with Canada in the markets of the world on equal, and possibly on disadvantageous terms. A reference to official documents will prove that the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland, have been among the best customers of the United States for breadstuffs. In those provinces there are revenue duties on flour, varying from 25 cents to 75