

\$71,000,000 were marketed in Great Britain whilst the United States took only \$8,200,000. These figures would appear to tell us their own tale so far as the mother country is concerned, and no person listens to the tale more gladly than I do. Great Britain purchases from us as well as from all the rest of the world in great abundance. There is no index more accurate of the value of the services of her great industrial army and the consequent prosperity of a country than the extent of her purchases. But note this, whilst Great Britain sells to the whole world Great Britain buys from the four quarters of the globe. Englishmen sell where prices are highest and buy where they are lowest, and forget to ask whether, as the result of their transactions, they are less English than they were before. Canadians have the freest access to the market of Great Britain, but so have the people of every other country. We must not forget that fact. In 1908, the last year for which we have the British trade returns, Great Britain took over 16,000,000 cwts. of Canadian flour. But she took on precisely the same terms, 17,800,000 cwts. from Russia, and 20,000,000 cwts. from Argentina as well as large quantities from other countries foreign and colonial. The effect of this miscellaneous buying on the part of Britain upon the trade of Canada is well set forth in a tabulated statement prepared every year by the Montreal 'Gazette' on the business done at the port of Montreal. Let me quote on that the report of the export trade at the port of Montreal. It says:

Canada's export grain trade from the port of Montreal for the season of 1910, has been anything but a profitable one to exporters, owing to the unsettled condition of the wheat markets of the world and the keen competition that was met with from exporting countries, which tended to depress values in the English markets, frequently during the season, below prices on the Canadian market.

Mark this, Mr. Chairman. There is no question of the welcome ready for goods in the English market; if only our farmers are willing to take as low prices as the same goods can be had for from any other country. Our farmers are compelled and indeed are quite satisfied to pay their labourers wages high enough to enable them to live according to the standards of a high civilization, but the Canadian farmer will not on that account, receive one iota of advantage over the Indian, Russian or the South American farmer, who can hire labour at wages our farmers would be ashamed to pay their men.

Let us see what is the scale of wages paid in Argentina to farm hands. It is 64 cents per day, in Russia 40 to 45 cents per day, and in India 8 and 12 cents per day.

Mr. AMES. By this reciprocity treaty, do not the natural products of Argentina and Russia come free into Canada?

Mr. LEMIEUX. Well, I am not ready to answer my hon. friend, but I do not see what the wheat from Argentina, or Russia, or India would do in Canada when we export our surplus production. I am only a tyro in business, but surely my hon. friend will not contend for one moment that we must fear the competition of Argentina in our grain markets.

Mr. AMES. I think the hon. gentleman shows that very strongly.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO. Would not the same argument apply to the United States, which exports 114,000,000 bushels?

Mr. LEMIEUX. If I were in Scotland I would be willing to be heckled, but I am not in Scotland, I am in Canada. My hon. friend will find my tables and statements in 'Hansard,' and he will read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them. In Canada, according to this table—

Mr. AMES. Would my hon. friend be kind enough to repeat the wages paid in Argentina and Russia?

Mr. LEMIEUX. Yes. The wages of labour in Argentina, Russia and India are, according to late United States consular reports, as follows, in each case without board or keep: Argentina, 64 cents per day; Russia, 40 to 45 cents per day, and India, 8 and 12 cents per day. Now, in Canada the schedule shows the rates for 1899 and for 1909, the comparison being for ten years:

The information received at the Department of Labour is to the effect that there has been no substantial change in farm wages since 1909.

I will not take all the different sections of the country, but I will take the north-west provinces. On a yearly engagement the rate is \$35 per month around Winnipeg.

Mr. WRIGHT. Does that include board?

Mr. LEMIEUX. Per month, with board, during the summer season around Winnipeg; Brandon, \$30 and \$33; Moosejaw, \$50; Calgary, \$35 and \$40. Now, Mr. Chairman, with these figures giving the scale of wages paid in various countries, it is easy to see that as long as we give our farm hands living wages, as long as we uphold the ideals for which we live in a white country in British North America, we cannot compete against the wages paid to the peasantry of Russia, to Indians, or to the farm hands of Argentina. I mean on the British market, not on the Canadian market.