

entertain this doubt. They have shown in the past, by spending money on those commissions, that they think it is possible to create and encourage trade between Canada and the West Indies and the neighboring regions, and they have recently shown their confidence in a still stronger manner by giving very handsome subsidies to a line of steamers to ply between Canada and those markets, and that must be only upon the assumption that a profitable trade can be thereby built up. I think that there is some little trade growing up, and it is possible that it may increase in the future; but I do not think that anything would do more to increase that trade than our being properly represented at this exhibition; therefore, I think it is the duty of the Government to avail themselves of this opportunity to make Canadian products known to the West Indies and the surrounding regions. I hope they have already had the matter under consideration, and that they propose to take the necessary steps to have Canada represented at the approaching exhibition at Jamaica.

HON. MR. OGILVIE — Before the hon. leader replies, I would like to say a few words as to what the senior member for Halifax has said about our wheat and flour. I listened with a great deal of pleasure indeed to many of his remarks, and I think that he is quite right in most of them. As to our wheat, the farmers cannot very well improve it, because the best wheat that is grown in the world at present is grown in our North-West Territories. There is no wheat grown anywhere that has produced flour to equal in strength the flour made from the wheat of our North-West, and that was proved by tests both in Milwaukee and in London last year. The tests that were made in London last year I am very proud indeed to be able to inform the House showed that the best patent Hungarian and strong bakers' flour was made by Canadian mills, ahead of any other flour in the world, and these are mills with which my name is connected. I have considered the difficulty of shipping flour to South America and the West Indies, and I looked very carefully into the process from end to end, as far back as twenty-six years ago. There is a very large firm in New York, Hager Bros., who

manufacture flour specially for the West Indies and South American markets, the wheat for which is all kiln-dried before it is ground. That flour would not sell in this country at all. Nobody would use it. The only wheat that could be manufactured into flour without being kiln-dried to send down there would be the wheat from India. I have seen samples of that wheat, which I think could be ground and sent to Southern markets without being kiln-dried, but any of our Canadian wheat would have to be dried, and the best wheat that is grown is the wheat, the flour from which will spoil quickest in a hot climate, simply because it contains more gluten than dry wheat, so that the very best flour that we make is the flour that would spoil in the West Indies markets. The reason it is not sent out, therefore, is the same reason that we have not supplied the markets of South America and the West Indies with a very large amount of other goods. It would not pay any miller in Canada to manufacture it specially, as our Government, while they protect by their National Policy everybody else, exclude the millers. It was only the other day that they put us on an even keel. Before that, there was a bounty of 25 cents in favor of the American miller; now we have no protection at all. Wheat and flour pay about the same duty. The reason we have not manufactured flour in Canada for the South American market is that it is an expensive process, and all the flour manufactured in that way would have to be sent South to be sold, because it would not sell in this country. It is not for want of first-class wheat or lack of enterprise on the part of our millers. Speaking of cottons, a mill has been built at Montmorency within the last few months, in which I have a small interest, which is intended principally to manufacture cottons for China and Japan markets, and I think it is going to succeed remarkably well.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I may be excused for saying a word on this subject, as the county from which I come does a large trade with the West Indies, and particularly with Jamaica, and our people are deeply interested in that trade. As the hon. gentleman from Halifax has said, when we grant such generous bounties to vessels engaged in developing that