

Increase with Great Britain \$ 22,233,206
 Increase with United States 111,290,143

Thus you will see, Mr. Speaker, that our trade is gradually leaving Great Britain and drifting to the United States, and I wish to point out to the right hon. gentleman and his government the fact that one of the reasons, in my humble opinion, is because of the one-sided tariff, the low tariff we have in this country as against the very high tariff that is imposed on our products going into the United States. Some hon. gentlemen will say that our climate is so much against the products of the farm and orchard that we cannot always supply our Canadian market. In no year do the farm products of this country altogether fail in every part of Canada. If we cannot supply the fruit in Ontario, then it can be supplied by the province of Quebec or the maritime provinces. If we cannot supply it in eastern Canada at all, no doubt the time will come when we can produce a very large quantity of it in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, and I am quite sure a considerable portion can be produced in British Columbia. Indeed it is said a very considerable portion of the smaller fruits can be produced in the Yukon district.

I am not going to discuss that now, further than to say that if there is a failure of, for instance, the apple crop in Ontario and there is a good apple crop in other provinces of the Dominion of Canada, then the people in Ontario are sufficiently loyal to bring in their apples from the other provinces of the Dominion rather than to bring them from the United States. The same thing will apply to every other article of produce, pork and every other thing.

The hon. gentleman who to-night occupies the position of Speaker (Mr. Campbell) made some little complaint last year and I wish to refer to what he then said. He dealt at length with the fact that the hon. member for Laval (Mr. Léonard) had waited until the budget was brought down before he moved his resolution. My hon. friend made this statement:

I am still in hopes that the tariff will be increased on these articles. I am not going to give up yet; I am going to continue, and I warn the Finance Minister now that I shall be after him again and again. But so far as I am concerned I am not going to vote for the hon. gentleman's motion.

The hon. member for West York (Mr. Campbell) spoke in this way, but I shall not pursue that further as the hon. gentleman is now in the chair. I will say, however, that the government have complained in former years during this parliament that we have waited until the budget was brought down before we introduced resolutions of this kind calling for a revision of the tariff. I may say to the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and his government that we have brought down

Mr. BLAIN.

the resolution now and that it is a notice not of to-day, but a notice of many years' standing, a notice introduced in this parliament either before or after the budget year after year by the Liberal-Conservative party. That party are prepared to give our hearty support to the right hon. gentleman and his government in order that a better protection shall be given to the farmers and market-gardeners of this country. When the right hon. gentleman and his colleagues are considering this question—and I presume they are considering it because I was present at a deputation which waited on the hon. the Finance Minister and his colleagues three years ago, and the government held out such hopes to the farmers and market-gardeners that they left Ottawa feeling that, possibly before they got home, the tariff would be revised and everything made right. But three years have passed away and now we are in the fourth session of this parliament. This government came into power in 1896 with a very large majority at their back. A very large majority of the electors of this country supported the right hon. gentleman and his party at the polls so that they had a free hand in tariff as well as other matters and they stood in a unique position, a position such as the Conservative party never found themselves in when revising tariff. The right hon. gentleman is assured of the support of the hon. the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) and his supporters not only in voice, but in votes recorded in this House on resolutions such as I have read to the House this evening. Therefore, I say that no government has had a better opportunity of correcting this great evil than this government. If ever a government has had fair warning, that warning has been given to the right hon. gentleman and his friends. They have been warned on the floor of this House, newspapers have brought the government's attention to this condition of things, resolutions by farmers' and market-gardeners' associations have been presented to them, speeches have been made on the subject in this House, resolutions have been voted for, and every possible notice has been given to this government that they have the support of the Conservative party of this country in attempting to revise the tariff and to make it adequate to meet the wants of the people of Canada, and equal to what is necessary in the interests of the farming community of this country who are great contributors to the taxes and who should have a considerable amount of attention from the right hon. gentleman and his government.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The government has certainly no reason to complain of the manner in which my hon. friend (Mr. Blain) has introduced this matter to the attention of the House. The subject