

from every section of the province, and he extended a cordial welcome to all.

Sir John Carling replied to the toast, "The Dominion and Provincial Parliaments," as follows.

I am very much pleased indeed to be with you to-night, and I am glad to see the grand success of the poultry show. As a result of my experience in the Legislature thirty years ago as Minister of Agriculture, and later when I had the honor of being Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion, I feel a great interest in matters of this kind. We all know the agricultural interest of Canada is a great and important interest, and whenever the agriculturist is successful and prosperous, the country in general will prosper. Look at the improvements that have been made during the last thirty or forty years. For instance, we had no railways of any account then, but now there are 17,00 miles in operation, and before the close of 1900 it is expected there will be nearly 20,000, and this is of great benefit to the farmer, as it gives him great facilities for disposing of his products at the best markets.

A great deal has been said with regard to our neighbors across the line. We would like to trade with them, but they do not feel disposed to act fairly. They want to get the best of the bargain every time, and although deputation after deputation has been sent by our Governments to try and arrange the matter, they have all returned unsuccessful. If they will not meet us fairly we will stand on our own rights as Canadians and refuse to give them more than we are receiving. British markets are open to us and we should and are taking advantage, to some extent, of the privilege and send as large an amount as possible of our products there. Our exports in 1896 amounted to \$121,000,000; of this amount \$66,000,000 went to Great Britain and \$44,000,000 to the United States. Our imports were \$118,000,000—\$33,000,000 from Great Britain and \$64,000,000 from the United States, while the latter only took from us \$44,000,000, or \$20,000,000 less than what we bought from them, notwithstanding the fact that they are doing all that they can to prevent us selling in their markets. They are charging five cents per dozen duty on eggs shipped into their country, while we only charge three cents. In fact on nearly everything they have a high protective duty.

With regard to the exporting of eggs, I was told to-day by a gentleman that his firm had exported during 1897 350,000 dozen eggs from London, and that 7,000,000 dozen had been shipped from Montreal to Great Britain last season. I think that speaks well for the work of this Association, and for those who take such an interest in poultry. Britain can take all the eggs you can produce. One gentleman imported into Great Britain last season 20,000,000 dozen, and the importation of eggs from all countries last year totalled £5,000,000 sterling, so that I think you must all feel encouraged to know that there is such a great demand there, and that you only have to continue to improve the quality and size of your eggs and you will get a good market for them, as you have for butter and cheese.

I feel it a great honor to be called upon to respond to the toast of "Canada." All my interests are here and so long as I was in public life I felt it a pleasure and a duty to advance the interests of this country in every possible way.

I thank you most heartily for the kind hearing you have given me, and wish you every success in your work.

Mr. W. T. Crandall, of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, said he had just returned from England, where he had been acting as commercial agent for the Dominion Government. We do not, he said, understand fully the capabilities of that wonderful market. Over \$600,000,000 is spent yearly for food. They require and have the best that can be procured. It is not a matter of choice with us whether we ship the products of this country to that market; it is a necessity. As Sir Jno. Carling very wisely said, we have tried for the United States trade, but by their high protective tariff, they have virtually said that they do not want our business, and as there is now a great desire on the part of England to give her colonies the preference in trade, we should take every advantage possible of that fact and thus build up a profitable trade.

With regard to poultry, the Canadian has a great deal to learn yet as to preparing and shipping this particular article to England. Well dressed fowl, carefully packed, will command a high figure, but as long as it is sent over in a manner similar to two consignments which I inspected just before leaving for home, low prices and an indifferent demand will be the re-