

ness men in various sections of the country that the result of that exhibit was to bring them trade which they did not enjoy before. We have sent a Commissioner to the Colonies in the Pacific Ocean, and that Commissioner reports that the chances are fair for a very large trade with the Colonies in that part of the Empire. Hon. gentlemen will remember that, a few years ago, there was an exhibition in Sydney, N.S.W., our exhibit at which was the beginning of our trade with the Australasian continent. We learn that there is to be shortly an exhibition at Melbourne, and I have no doubt that our Government, always seeking to extend our trade, will endeavor to obtain an exhibit there which will result in extending our trade connections with Australia and bring about an interchange of trade between us and those our sister Colonies. Then, we have taken steps to seek out a country in the South American continent, the Argentine Republic, a great prosperous country with five millions of people, whose wealth lies in the 100,000,000 sheep and 50,000,000 cattle that feed upon its plains. We find that their imports amount to some \$90,000,000 of goods, \$50,000,000 worth of which could be supplied from the workshops and factories of Canada, and I think that the Government, in seeking to extend our trade with that Republic, will meet with the approval of the various sections of this country. When I was in the Pacific Province, I was glad to see, as one of the results of the completion of our Canadian Pacific Railway, the shipping of China and Japan resting in the beautiful harbor of the city of Vancouver, bringing the products of the Orient to this continent, and carrying away the lumber and timber from the wonderful forests of the Pacific coast and the agricultural products of our Canadian North-West. It is true that, owing to the nature of these peoples, we may not be able to cultivate that trade as rapidly as we would like, or as rapidly as we might expect otherwise, but I think we are none too hopeful when we say that only a few years must elapse before we shall supply a great portion of what those hundreds of millions of people consume in those two great Eastern Empires. Even now, as I speak, are being built, in the shipyards of the Clyde, steamers for the Pacific trade. I remember that, a few years ago, we congratulated ourselves upon having a line of steamships crossing the Atlantic Ocean. But to-day, Sir, the traveller may, from the ports of the old world, cross the Atlantic upon elegant Canadian steamers. He may flit across the continent in palace cars, over a railroad built by Canadian enterprise, and traversing from the Atlantic to the Pacific nothing but Canadian soil; and in the near future, in a few months, we hope that he will be able to continue his journey across the Pacific Ocean to the ports of China and Japan and the shores of the Island continent itself. A moment ago I incidentally mentioned the city of Vancouver. I must congratulate my hon. friend who comes from that district upon representing a constituency which contains the best evidence of Canadian energy and enterprise. A few years ago a great forest covered its site. Now, anyone who enters its limits will find a magnificent city with miles of well-paved streets, dozens of magnificent business blocks and innumerable well-built homes, having every evidence of culture and refinement. While I have been speaking of this general prosperity of the country, hon. gentlemen may say that I have not spoken of the prosperity of the farmers of Canada. I admit very freely that an effort has been made to discourage our agriculturists in this country, but let me ask in what way are our agriculturists not prosperous, and what agriculturists under the sun are more prosperous than the Canadian farmers at the present time? Let me refer to the condition of the farmers in two great countries at the present hour. The *New York Times*, which has not very marked sympathy with Canada, tells us that:

"The profit derived from American agriculture is now so small as to be unworthy of the slightest consideration."

And the position of farmers in the great mother country is such as to call from Her Majesty in Her Speech to the British Parliament, the following words:—

"I deeply regret that there has been no corresponding improvement observable in the condition of agriculture. I commend the interests of that great industry to your attentive care, hoping that means may be discovered to enable it to meet more effectively the difficulties under which it labors."

In view of the state of agriculture in England and in the United States, it is pleasing to hear one of the professors in the Agricultural College of the Province of Ontario stating that our farmers as a class are prosperous and are making money. But I need not quote the testimony of any particular gentleman as to that fact. Hon. gentlemen who represent agricultural constituencies will bear me out in what I say. It has been stated that our farmers are for the most part mortgage-burdened. I do not speak for the constituencies of those members who assert that the farmers are mortgage-burdened, but, having the honor to represent the county of Haldimand, an agricultural county, I emphatically deny that the farmers there are a mortgage-burdened community. Hon. gentlemen opposite who have visited that community during the past year—and I may say, by the way, that we have had a number of those visitors—will, I am sure, agree with me that they found there evidences of wealth and prosperity. I believe that what is true of Haldimand is also true of other constituencies in this Province. It is true that we have some mortgages, but the latest returns show us that throughout the Dominion we have mortgages only to the amount of \$31,798,288, which, if they were placed wholly on the farms of Ontario, would be only 9 per cent. of the value of the same. Take for a moment the figures in regard to ten States of the American Union, which show the following as the mortgages in those States:—

Ohio	\$ 761,000,000
Indiana.....	398,000,000
Illinois.....	620,000,000
Wisconsin.....	250,000,000
Michigan.....	350,000,000
Minnesota.....	175,000,000
Iowa.....	351,000,000
Nebraska.....	140,000,000
Kansas.....	200,000,000
Missouri.....	237,000,000
	<u>\$3,422,000,000</u>

That shows a total mortgage liability of \$3,422,000,000 on the whole value of the property of \$13,931,000,000, or an average of about 25 per cent. on the value of the farm properties in those ten States. The percentage in Ohio is 25, in Illinois it is 25 per cent., in Missouri it is 30 per cent., and so it ranges from 20 to 30 per cent. We have heard a great deal about Dakota. Sometimes some Canadian journals have lauded the condition of the farmers of Dakota. In that Territory they have a population of 600,000, and they have \$45,000,000 of mortgages, or \$75 for each individual and \$375 for each family, and that not on the rate of 6 or 7 per cent., but at the rate of 10 per cent. in almost every case almost every time. Then, take the State of Michigan, with which the Province of Ontario can be very fairly compared, and you find that they have farm property to the value of \$1,400,000,000, of which \$700,000,000 is encumbered, with mortgages to the amount of \$350,000,000, or 25 per cent. of the total value of the farm property in the State. But hon. gentlemen will say, perhaps, that we should take the State of New York, which may be more fairly compared with our own Province of Ontario. I shall not trouble you with the figures, but simply an expression contained in a report of the New York Department of Agriculture with regard to the State of New York. Let me read it all, because it