

ripening kinds of wheat. Progress has been made. Since the discovery of Marquis wheat the Department of Agriculture has developed a variety which ripens a little earlier than the Marquis. The best brains in the Department are now engaged in attempting to discover other varieties of wheat that are not only earlier in maturing, but more likely to make a good return. Any scientific problem to be solved must be attacked from many sides. One might discover a method of avoiding rust, but that method might have the effect of weakening the plant. The vigour of the plant life must be preserved, yield must not be lessened, and the grain must be able to stand up under adverse weather conditions. These are a few of the things that have to be considered in agricultural experiments.

I hope that through the efforts of our various colleges and the opportunities that the Government can make available a field will be opened in our own country for Canadian experts, so that they may not find it necessary to emigrate to the United States for employment.

I want to deal also with the question of the West Indian Treaty, because it was referred to at some length in the Speech from the Throne, and also by the mover of the Address in reply. I have no special knowledge on that matter, but, if it is not considered too personal, I may say that I know a little from having travelled through the West Indies some ten years ago. I tried to go via Halifax, but as the war was in progress, the ship on which I had obtained passage was commandeered. I went by one of the Quebec Steamship Company's vessels from New York, and travelled over nearly all the territory which would be affected by the West Indian Treaty save Jamaica only; and I returned via Halifax, on one of the boats of the Royal Mail Steamship Company.

I found during my little holiday in the West Indies a very keen desire on the part of the people to increase commercial relations with Canada. The people, on the whole, were intensely British; they did not want to be Americanized, as far as I could gather from my talks with them. Their products, as everybody knows, are entirely different from ours, and they are large consumers of many of our products of which we have a surplus for export.

Although the two lines of service have not yet been established, I am glad to see that the partial carrying out of the Treaty has already developed the trade both in exports from Canada and imports from the West Indies. I, as a Westerner, living out, as

some of you may think, on the bleak prairies, know that in the aggregate there are very large numbers who go from Western Canada to California in the winter. Some go every winter, or periodically, every two or three years, and thus go many times. They leave our country and spend their money abroad. I have not compared the distances, but it is a very long way from the middle of Saskatchewan to Los Angeles, which seems to be the haven that many seek, and I think it would not take much longer to go to the West Indies. I imagine that if the people from Western Canada and those from the older portions of the Dominion who desired a change of atmosphere and surroundings were to visit the West Indies, a very considerable passenger traffic would be developed and trade might be cultivated. I have holidayed in Los Angeles, but I have had no enjoyment there to compare with that which I had in the West Indies. I hope that when we get the other ships going, on the western coast, there will always be "bananas to-day." I have no doubt that if we can bring them in commercially, in the way that has been suggested by the mover of the Address, with satisfactory arrangements as to the freight rates, and as to the cost at which they can be purchased and the price at which they can be sold, that trade should develop in Canada.

It is an absurdity to think that that trade should go through New York, when the distances to our great markets are no shorter by the New York route, and there is perhaps an even greater desire in northern latitudes for the fruit. New York and other ports in the United States have access to many other markets, such as their own islands, and all Central America. It is due, I think, to the wonderful energy and the magnificent resources of the Union Fruit Company in New York that they have been able to exploit the West Indies market to our disadvantage.

I have, therefore, no criticism individually to offer on the Treaty with the West Indies. It is, in any event, on the right lines. I am not in a position to say whether we did or did not pay too much for a fleet of five vessels—I think the number is five—for the purposes of the West Indian trade. Those honourable members who are familiar with navigation and shipping are in a better position than I to pass judgment on that. I assume, in any event, that the Government is going to have those ships constructed as quickly as possible and to see that they are of adequate dimensions for the purposes of the trade.

I do know, from my own personal experience, to which I took the liberty of re-