

Havana filler or the Sumatra wrapper, the hon. gentlemen might just as well say that we cannot grow tobacco at all. The hon. member for Richmond, N. S., (Mr. Gillies) said that the flavors of the black tobaccos of the state of Kentucky were the finest in the world. If the hon. gentleman had taken the trouble, as I did, to look up the meteorological reports of the state of Kentucky and of Western Ontario, he would have found that we have as many sunny days during the tobacco growing season as they have in the state of Kentucky. Some years ago the Ontario government, copying an article written of the south-western district, published it for circulation in the old land, and there are one or two extracts in it which I propose reading :

Pelee Island, only sixteen miles from the main shore, is in latitude 41 degrees, 36 minutes. A line east and west through Pelee Island passes through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and California; through northern Portugal and Southern Turkey in Europe. One-third of Spain, three-fourths of Italy, and almost the entire Adriatic Sea lie north of Pelee. Fishing Point is fifty miles nearer the equator than the southern-most verge of France.

Due east of the vineyards of Pelee are the vineyards of Old Castle, of the Apulian Valley, in southern Italy, and the orange grove of Barcelona.

The Island of Pelee, as has been intimated, is famous for its vineyards, and for the wines which these produce. The best variety of grapes can be grown abundantly and of magnificent size. The failure of the grape crop is almost unknown on the island, whereas in Eastern France, famous in Europe for its grapes and wines, there is a failure about once in three years, while in only one year in three does the crop reach perfection. Vineyards of from twenty to thirty acres everywhere dot the island, yielding from four to five tons of fruit to the acre.

Fig and almond trees, with a little winter protection, bear abundantly. Cotton-seed has been ripened. Mais, sugar cane, pea-nuts, sweet potatoes, the pawpaw, white mulberry, peach, apricots, nectarine and quince will flourish and bear abundantly.

And what is true of the climate and products of Pelee Island is, in the main, true of the county of Essex, its nearest neighbor on the mainland.

In conclusion, let me say, that if the hon. member for Bothwell—a constituency which lies not 30 miles further to the north—would stand up in this House and say a word or two in favor of the climate and soil, and the inhabitants that he represents, instead of rising here and endeavoring to propagate, through the medium of the public press, the fallacy that the tariff changes of 1897, have resulted in an increase in the price of tobacco—if he had stated what is the fact, that it had resulted in a decrease in the price, instead of an increase, and that you could purchase one and a half times as much tobacco now, for the same amount of money, that it cost prior to 1897—if, in other words, he had told the plain truth, it would have been better for himself, better for his constituency, better for an industry which stands, by virtue of the tariff changes, without a parallel in the history of Canada as regards its growth—if he had stated that the output had increased by 700 per cent., that the manufacture of cigars had increased 600 per cent., and that of leaf tobacco 250 per cent., while at the same time, the article has been cheapened to the people of Canada between 30 and 50 per cent., he would have performed his duty more faithfully and creditably to his country, his constituency and himself.