

leaf that enters into the manufacture of tobacco is of the same type and equal in quality to the foreign leaf used by manufacturers in this country."

I subsequently wrote to Mr. Gregory, asking him three questions. First, what his experience had been; second, the names of the firms for whom he had purchased in the United States, and third, their financial standing. I will give you his reply:

"In reply to question No. 1, regarding my experience in tobacco, will state that have been in business thirteen years, and during that time have bought 15,000,000 pounds of tobacco. Bought two years for J. D. Cooper, exporter and speculator; bought four years for Allen & Ginter, one of the largest firms in United States, and was for seven years buyer for the American Tobacco Company."

Any man who knows anything about the tobacco trade of the United States knows that the American Tobacco Company is literally the trust of the tobacco industries of the United States, and that Allen & Ginter are one of the largest, if not the largest, firms in the United States in the production of fancy types and cigarettes:

"I was raised on a tobacco farm, and have seen the tobacco business in all its forms, from the field to manufactured product. The firms named are of national reputation, as you asked me to state size and standing of firms that the writer represented."

In regard to the amount of Burley used—I would ask you to notice this point particularly, and I wish to diverge again to say that nearly nine-tenths of the tobacco consumed in Canada outside of fancy Virginia grades, cigarettes and Havana cigars, is made from the Burley type:

"In reply to question No. 2, in regard to amount of Burley used in manufacture of black chewing tobacco in Canada, will say that the Burley type is used almost exclusively. In regard to 'smoking,' will state that it is not used to the extent as for chewing, but the writer has seen a remarkable, yes, phenomenal, increase in the sale of Burley smoking in the past twelve months. The State of Kentucky (which produces Burley exclusively) is by far the largest tobacco-producing state in America, and a very large majority of all tobaccos are made from the Burley type, Virginia and Carolina tobaccos being used almost exclusively for cigarette and light smoking. Canada is capable of producing a type of tobacco that in flavor, texture and general character will compare most favorably with the Kentucky product. In fact, there is tobacco in the warehouse in Leamington now that is equal in every respect to the foreign leaf. Our growers are just beginning to reach that stage where they can grow it to perfection, having passed the experimental stage."

That is the opinion of one of the best tobacco experts on the continent. But I would like the hon. member for Bothwell to listen to the opinion of Mr. Alex. Harthill, of Louisville, Kentucky, one of the largest, if not the largest, leaf tobacco buyers in the world, and a world-famous authority on all that pertains to leaf tobacco, who paid a special visit to Canada last year for the purpose of investigating our leaf. After a thorough inspection of our crop he returned home, and in an interview with the representatives of the trade press, stated that he had seen tobacco grown by our farmers that was fully equal in quality to that grown in Kentucky.

Now, I hold in my hand the *Western Tobacco Journal*, published in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio. This is a copy of the issue of May 22, 1899, containing