

hon. friend as the chief commercial agent of Canada. At the present moment, is it not perfectly obvious that while he is making this journey to the Antipodes to do a semi-fractional trade for Canada, the only trade possible in those parts of the world, he might have gone to Washington, as he had gone before, if it had not been for our fiscal independence, and done a trade which would have meant much for the commercial development of this country without for one moment interfering with our connection with the Empire. I was surprised to hear hon. gentlemen opposite cheer the ironical remark of my hon. friend, who has just resumed his seat, as to the Empire having been saved on the 21st of September, 1911. I do not understand why they applaud that statement, because they are saving it again by a gift of \$35,000,000 to the British navy. I should like to say, while on that subject of Empire saving, that after all Wellington and Nelson and a few others did something along that line without the Canadian Tory party saving the Empire every three weeks. My fear, as a member of this Canadian trading firm, and my only fear, is that the travelling expenses of our agent will run away with more than the profits on the orders. I want to say seriously that this measure will be a disappointment to the western farmers who have grain in their barns now for which they cannot get more than sixteen or eighteen cents a bushel.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Why do they not go into mixed farming?

Mr. CLARK: Or exchange for the sugar of the West Indies. It will be a disappointment to those farmers who have raised oats at great labour, undertaking the duties of landlord, tenant and workman, duties in which I have been personally engaged with my family for the past eleven years, and the hardships of which I know thoroughly. They have raised those oats which are in the barns, and they do not cover the cost of production. They would rather leave them lying in the barns than sell, because they know that the moment they have sold them the machine men and others, to whom they owe money, will be round and will take everything of the proceeds from the sale, the farmer himself being left no better except that it is better to be able to say that we have paid our debts. But as far as the prospects in Canada are concerned, what good does it do to pay one's debts if one does not know where to look for a living after he has paid them? The consequence is, and I am not drawing a fancy picture, that the machine men at the present moment are not able to make more than five to ten per cent of their collection in many parts of the province to which

Mr. CLARK (Red Deer).

I belong. In this way the rejection of a trading measure that would have meant something to the country touches Ontario just as closely as it touches Alberta, and I am speaking most seriously to my hon. friends opposite, many of whom I know have open minds, when I say that I would like them to look into this question. I want to reiterate the promise I made before in this House, that if they will look into it and study it, and take the solution which an easy sacrifice of consistency would lead them to adopt, I will be the strongest supporter they have in the carrying out of that measure. Why, to talk about going in for trade with the West Indies while our whole trade at the present time is \$16,000,000, when you had a chance of vastly extending your trade, where you are at present doing a trade of \$460,000,000, is the most frivolous piece of statesmanship which was ever undertaken by the men responsible for the government of a great country.

Now, I may be asked, could those oats be sold in the United States, because there was no argument so frequently used by the opponents of reciprocity as this, that there was no market for our goods in the States. Well, I do not propose to deal with that in a long argument, but I should like to give four or six figures to the House to show that just at this moment they have reached in the United States a condition where the production of foodstuffs has nearly reached its limit, while in this country we are just at the beginning of our production. In the States there is an enormous population with a limited extra production. Here we have a sparse population with an unlimited possible production. Now, if these figures do not bear out that general principle then I am unable to support an argument at all. According to the figures of the Blue-book last issued upon the trade of this country by my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce, giving the respective exports and imports from and to the United States and Canada, we imported during the seven months ending October, 1912, 127,000 bushels of what; but we exported to the United States 467,000 bushels of wheat. What we imported was a convenience to the people who imported, or they would not have imported it, as Canadians are mostly sane. The point to which I draw attention is the vastly larger figure of our export. Of oats, we imported from the United States 59,000 bushels, an inconsiderable and negligible quantity, while we exported to the United States 685,000 bushels. Of barley we imported from the United States 811 bushels; to the United States we exported in round figures 122,000 bushels. Of flax we imported from the United States 3,700 bushels; to the United States we exported 3,613,000 bushels; almost nothing coming in, and this enormous export going out. And yet our friends