

910 lbs. In 1910 they fell to 2,276,343 lbs. Of butter in 1878, 38,464,753 lbs. In 1910, 1,958,550. The British Board of Trade give the U. S. wheat shipments for 1909 as less than 17 million bushels.

It will be a great surprise to many to know that in the fiscal year, 1908 and 1909, the United States bought and imported for their own use from the United Kingdom, \$2,750,000.00 worth of potatoes. Look again at the list of our exports of natural products given on page 8 in this pamphlet and satisfy yourself that the United States is the market we should cultivate when we have the opportunity. Refuse it now and it may never come again on such favorable terms.

Rural Population of Ontario Decreasing.

The Department of Agriculture in Ontario has issued a report in which they claim that the rural population of the Province has decreased 60,000 during the last twenty years and that the urban population has increased nearly 205,000 during the same period. This is a serious condition of things and shows that farming even in this Banner Province is not as remunerative as it should be. Farmers and farmers' sons would not leave the farm if the conditions were equally as favorable as those of our towns and cities.

Let us not forget that no growth of cities or increase of wealth can compensate for any loss in either the number or the character of our rural population. We of all others should recognize this.

A peculiar dependence has been placed on the farmers in the past and that dependence has been justified. It cannot be justified if agriculture is permitted to sink in the scale as compared to other employments. The primary and chief object of the Reciprocity Agreement is to get for us a second market free of tariff obstructions. If it proves a benefit we can use it. If not every market we have to-day is still ours. We will be absolutely free to choose where we will buy or sell.

If after giving it a trial we wish to make any change whatever, a clause is inserted in the agreement by which we can do so at our own pleasure without any reference to the U. S.

I would ask you to preserve this statement of the case. It is prepared with much care to put the question fairly.

Study the arguments in each paragraph. Study our exports, of which we give a partial list as examples to show what we are now selling.

Study the rates of duty now charged.

Study the large sums of money the U.S. government are now charging us as duties for what we are selling to them.

Consider what it will mean to save these high duties, and have free access to their larger markets.

Then think what the voters of Canada would have said, had the Government neglected this great opportunity to better the conditions of the people.

MALCOLM S. SCHELL.