

that kind, the people not only from Jamaica, but from all the neighboring islands, and probably from portions of South America and from the United States, will be gathered at that exhibition. I think that Canada should be represented there. Hon. gentlemen will remember that just previous to Confederation, in the year 1866, a commission was sent from British North America to the West Indies and South America, and a number of distinguished men took part in that commission. The commission made an elaborate report, but I am not aware that beyond that any result followed from the expenditure in connection with it. Again, some two or three years ago a commissioner was sent out by this Government to South America—to Guiana, I think, and to the Argentine Republic—and that commissioner did his duty apparently in a very thorough manner, and made a report which contained a great deal of valuable information; but, as far as I am aware, no pecuniary transactions with the Argentine Republic ever followed as a consequence of that commission. I presume hon. gentlemen are aware that there are rumors of other commissions to be sent to other foreign parts. Of that I cannot speak with authority. Probably there will be other commissions to the West Indies and that part of the world. My reason for calling attention to this matter is, that I think that by securing a fair representation of our manufactures and other products at this great exhibition to be held in Jamaica the people of the West Indies and of the surrounding regions will learn more of what we produce in Canada and what we have to sell, and what they may possibly be able to buy from us to advantage, than they could learn from a dozen commissions. I think this is so self-evident that it does not require any argument. If our products are put before the eyes of those people, and if the Dominion is represented by a business-like agent—I do not say a member of this House or a member of the House of Commons, or one of the prominent officials in the public departments—but, if it is represented by a good business man, a superior commercial traveller or commercial agent, this exhibition will do more to make us known and to promote trade, if there is any extended trade possible between those countries and Canada, than many commissions. That is

the reason why I thought it desirable to call the attention of the Government to this matter. The cost of having Canada represented at this exhibition would not be large. The freight to Jamaica would be small, and one or two practical business-like men could be had for a comparatively reasonable figure; and I think that would be all that would be necessary. These agents could inform the people there as to the prices of the articles exhibited, and could also give information as to the mode of shipment from Canada and the cost of transit. I have intimated a doubt as to whether there would by any very large or substantial results from our being represented at that exhibition. I feel those doubts, and I regret that it is so; but one can not help the feeling. Some people think that our flour might be sold in the West Indies. Of course, the farmers cannot do anything to improve the wheat, but unless our millers adopt other methods of manufacturing—different from those which are now adopted—our flour will not suit the West Indies market. I do not know why some such improvement could not be made as would enable our flour to go to the West Indies. Looking at the fact that cotton has been shipped from Canada to China, and, as I have been informed, sold at a profit in the Chinese market in competition with English cotton, I thought that there was an article which we might send to the West Indies. Large quantities of cotton are used in the West Indies. I have been informed, however, by a gentleman more familiar with the business of the West Indies than I am, that where this has been tried it had been found that cottons were actually cheaper in the West Indies than in Canada. The duty in Jamaica is only 12 per cent., and in most of the other islands is less than that, and the prospect of selling Canadian cottons in those markets is not good. But there are a great many other products that we possibly might sell there. There is no reason why we should not sell some cheese there; and if, as the hon. gentleman from Quinté division said he hoped would be the case, our butter-makers improve their product, I do not know any reason why considerable quantities of Canadian butter might not be sold in the West Indies. Although I have my individual doubt of any profitable trade with the West Indies, the Government do not