

anything that the farmer produces. What they want is to have the duties all taken off the goods they are producing. Give them the free market, and that is all you need worry about. They will sell where they can sell to the best advantage; if they can sell better across the line they will do so, and thus be able to expend more money in goods manufactured in Eastern Canada and be a bigger asset to Canada as a whole and to the Canadian manufacturer in particular. To give them this market would be a general advantage to Canada. It was said four years ago during the reciprocity campaign that we would pay too much for the American market for our farmers' produce. Well, there is an opportunity now to get that American market without paying anything for it. Supposing my hon. friends across the floor of the House were right four years ago—I do not think they were, but never mind that now. At the present time they can get the American market for wheat and all wheat products and potatoes by simply putting them on the free list. The western farmers, and to a large extent the eastern farmers, want to see that done, because it would mean an increase in the trade of Canada each year to the extent of tens of millions of dollars. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce could bring that about at once if he and his colleagues wanted to do so. They would not have to spend a dollar; they would not have to give any steamship subsidies. Why will they not do it? My hon. friend is anxious to send men all over the face of the earth to try to make little trade arrangements that would not amount in a year to what the extra trade with the United States would amount to in a week. Why this course has not been followed is something that is very difficult to understand. Four years ago our friends across the floor of the House maintained that the putting of cattle on the free list would mean the ruination of Canada. But a little over two and a half years ago the United States put cattle and hogs on the free list, with the result that practically every hoof that has been exported by Canada has gone to the United States. Why? Simply because we can get more money for our cattle there than we can get by sending them to Liverpool. Have my hon. friends across the floor of the House observed any lack of loyalty on the part of the prairie provinces since they commenced to sell their cattle and hogs in the United States? Do they think that it has had a bad effect

on Canada in any way? If they do, why do they not put a stop to it? They know very well that that state of affairs has been in the interests of Canada, and they know, too, that it would be very much in the interests of Canada if that trade were increased. My hon. friend the minister is in the frame of mind to try to increase Canada's trade. My recommendation to him is that instead of spending all this money in sending men all over the world to try to secure some doubtful trade—all good enough in its way—he should begin by getting the trade that is right at his door, and which can be secured for nothing. Surely that is common sense; surely that is reasonable. It is what the people are asking for; it would not hurt any one, and it would be a very great advantage along the lines that my hon. friend is working on. It very often happens that what we can get for nothing, or with very little effort, is not appreciated. My hon. friend thinks that if he can make a trade with some nation 10,000 miles away at a cost of a quarter of a million or half a million dollars by way of subsidies to steamships to carry the goods back and forth he has achieved something of great value to the country and of great credit to the Government. It is true that this trade would be of advantage to the people of Canada. I do not want to curtail my hon. friend, or interfere with him in any way so far as getting the trade of the outside world is concerned, but what I appeal to my hon. friend to do is, first, to get the trade that is right at his door, and that he can get without paying anything for it. Why does my hon. friend refuse? I cannot think of any other reason than that it is done at the instigation and on the advice of the manufacturers of Canada. I may be wrong in that, but I can think of no other reasonable reason why my hon. friend should refuse to give us the American market where it is possible to get it. I have no doubt that in addition to wheat, wheat products and potatoes, my hon. friend could have a large number of other natural products added to the list, and in doing this he need not touch manufactured articles at all, or interfere with the Canadian manufacturer in any shape or form.

In regard to the building of ships, I wish to impress on the minister that, according to reports in the Old Country papers, both the Government and private interests are urging that special efforts be made to increase the building of ships in the Old Coun-