

London, March 19.—Mr. Dickson, a prominent linen manufacturer, Leeds, says, after visiting Edmonton district, that nowhere except in Belgium can there be found conditions of soil more favourable to growing flax. He intends to take out his own machinery and erect a mill there this spring.

That shows you, Mr. Speaker, that there are favourable conditions in the Northwest Territories for the production of flaxseed. That is an article of which we imported last year \$1,376,537 worth. I wish to draw the attention of the government to the fact that flaxseed is on the free list and I do not think that it is in the interests of our farmers, when we consider that we have so many million acres of land in Canada that are now unoccupied. When we have conditions favourable for the production of this article, I do not think it is fair-play to the farmers and people of Canada that this article should be on the free list, when we import during the twelve months of last year flaxseed to the value I have named. Now, I wish to point out some other products of the farm that require better protection by this government. The duty on butter going to the United States is 6 cents a pound, the Canadian duty is 4 cents a pound. On cheese the United States duty is 6 cents a pound, and the Canadian duty is 3 cents a pound. On eggs the United States duty is 5 cents per dozen, and the Canadian duty 3 cents per dozen. The question arises: How does that affect the Canadian farmer and producer of these articles? I will give you a few facts, Mr. Speaker. Here is a table of our imports for home consumption from the United States, in the year ending the 30th of June, 1903, of the articles I have named:

| Article. | Quantity. | Value. |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| Butter..... | 505,113 lbs. | \$137,654 |
| Cheese..... | 179,479 lbs. | 30,401 |
| Eggs..... | 534,485 doz. | 121,262 |

Or a total importation under this one-sided tariff last year of \$289,317. Now, how much of these products did we send to the United States? Last year we exported to that country of the produce of Canada:

| Article. | Quantity. | Value. |
|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Butter..... | 50,745 lbs. | \$10,225 |
| Cheese..... | 56,676 lbs. | 7,779 |
| Eggs..... | 46,773 doz. | 6,436 |

In those three items we exported to the United States \$24,440, and we imported from the United States in the same year \$289,317, showing a balance in favour of the United States farmer of \$264,877, in consequence of that one-sided tariff. I think the right hon. gentleman and his government should do something for the better protection of the farmers who are producing these articles. My hon. friend from the county of Halton (Mr. Henderson), two or three years ago, in the course of his speech in the budget debate, gave a very important illustration of the condition of the pork industry in Canada when we had no tariff and after the tar-

iff was put on by the Liberal-Conservative government. Our tariff on pork coming into Canada is 2 cents per pound, the United States tariff is 5 cents per pound, more than double. I want to show how this tariff works out. We imported for home consumption from the United States in the year ending June 30, 1903,

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Bacon, ham, shoulders and sides | \$410,200 |
| Pork barrelled in brine..... | 497,279 |

or a total in these two items of \$907,479. We exported to the United States, in the same year,

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Bacon, ham, shoulders and sides | \$1,223 |
| Pork barrelled in brine..... | 8,631 |

or a total of \$9,854. In other words, we imported into Canada of these items last year \$907,479 worth and we exported \$9,854 worth, or a total in favour of the United States farmer, as against the Canadian farmer, of \$897,625 in one year.

Mr. ALEX. JOHNSTON. Would the hon. gentleman give the figures showing the total exports of Canada into the United States and the total imports?

Mr. BLAIN. I do not wish to be unkind to my hon. friend, but I want to say that I have been particularly careful that my remarks should be directed exclusively to this one question we have up for consideration. When the budget is brought down next week, he will have an opportunity of listening to still larger figures, and I am quite sure if my hon. friend can be convinced he will be convinced that we are importing altogether too much of every class of goods into this country under this one-sided tariff. Now, I want for a moment to point out how trade is drifting in Canada during the last few years. In 1868 we imported for home consumption from Great Britain, \$36,663,695; we imported from the United States that same year, \$26,315,052. In other words, we imported from Great Britain \$10,348,643 more than we did from the United States. But after seven years of our national life had passed away, in 1876, the tables were turned against Great Britain in favour of the United States. In 1876 we imported from Great Britain \$40,734,260, and from the United States \$46,070,033, showing a balance in favour of the United States in that year of \$5,335,773. Ten years more of our national life go by, and in 1886 we imported from Great Britain \$40,601,199 and from the United States \$44,858,039, showing a balance in favour of the United States of \$4,256,840. In 1896 we imported from Great Britain \$32,979,742 and from the United States \$58,575,024, showing a balance in favour of the United States for that year of \$25,594,282. In 1903, the last year of which we have a complete record, we imported from Great Britain \$58,896,901 and from the United States \$137,605,195, showing a balance in favour of the United States of \$78,708,294.