

House, but I will read one or two short extracts :

I saw little of Canadian cigar tobacco. One specimen of Zimmer's Spanish was a beautiful, silky leaf, but very light in colour; while another was a desirable brown colour, with fine texture. I gave to a friend a cigar made of Canadian cigar leaf of the 1897 crop with Sumatra wrapper, and he pronounced it a good, full-bodied smoke.

Now, if the western district is capable of producing a cigar tobacco—and we all know that Zimmer's Spanish is a cigar tobacco of rich brown colour—acceptable to an expert like Harthill, and yielding, as his friend declared, a large full bodied smoke, then, the western district of Canada is capable of producing a tobacco equal in quality to that which we at present import from the United States. Now, one word more. Hon. gentlemen opposite, the opponents of Canadian tobacco have a tendency rather to hold up the Macdonald tobacco, the Prince of Wales chewing and the pipe tobacco, as manufactured by Macdonald, at Montreal, as the standard, and to say that the Canadian tobacco is not equal to that which he manufactures from the foreign leaf, the imported article far excelling the domestic. This Mr. Harthill, speaking of Macdonald, says :

His using Canadian-grown Burley would be no greater change, if as great, as his changing Kentucky chewing fillers some years ago from Green River (a much stronger tobacco) to Burley entirely, which he uses now.

'To Burley entirely which he uses now.' If that is to be the standard, it seems to me that all that remains to be proved is that the Dominion of Canada is capable of producing Burley varieties equal to those produced in the United States, because of the Canadian, we receive 1½ pounds for the same price we paid for a pound prior to the days of 1897. In the fertile imagination of the hon. member for Bothwell, if you give a man a pound and a half of tobacco for the same price that he paid for a pound before, the member for Bothwell argues that the people of Canada are having taxes wrung from them on that article. Mr. Harthill goes one step further, and in the same article, he says :

Meantime the new Dominion is on the road to making the great staple one of her important industries, and to grow at home, in future, what she has spent millions for abroad in the past.

This is not the statement of any man interested in Canadian tobacco, this is not the statement of any Canadian manufacturer, this is not the statement of any man who would make a single dollar by virtue of the tobacco duties of 1897. There is an authority quite above the interest that radiates from the breeches pocket; it is an authority sent here for the purpose of investigating the tobacco fields of Canada, and he says that we can produce as good a tobacco of the same grades and the same varieties

as we are now importing from the United States.

The most convincing and irrefutable evidence that can possibly be cited as to the quality and merits of our Canadian tobacco is found in the columns of the *Canadian Cigar and Tobacco Journal*. This publication is the recognized organ of all branches of the trade, an admitted authority on all matters pertaining to the great tobacco industry, and having the same relationship to tobacco affairs that the *Iron Age* does to iron, the *Canadian Lumberman* to lumber, or *The Monetary Times* to matters of finance. Looking over its columns for the past three years I find that when the tariff commissions were touring the country, and when the subject of encouraging the Canadian tobacco industry by a revision of the tariff and excise regulations was first mooted, this tobacco journal was most vehement in its denunciation of such a measure. It stated Canada could never grow tobacco suitable for general consumption, and to attempt such an experiment was utterly ridiculous, so firm was it in its conviction on this point that it culminated in its issue of May, 1897, immediately after the budget came down with the statement that the new tobacco tariff was 'a monument of absurdity.'

We will turn to subsequent issues and see how the wonderful improvement in the quality of leaf now grown and its success with the public has brought about an evolution in the opinions of this undoubted authority. In January, 1899, in a leading editorial, they say :

Few of our readers have more than a vague understanding of the rapid advancement of Canadian tobacco as an article of consumption. Within the past year Canadian plug and cut is now selling on its intrinsic merits and increasing in demand to such an extent that it is quite within the probabilities that the close of the current year will see it constitute fully one-fourth of the total consumption of Canada.

Now, let me for a moment diverge to show why this paper should be taken as an authority. Recognizing the changes that have taken place, recognizing the capabilities of Canada in the production of tobacco, realizing that former utterances had been wrong, and yet wanting to be well within the mark, when it stated it would constitute 25 per cent. in point of fact it constituted 26 per cent and a fraction. It says further:

Canadian tobacco, once under the ban of public prejudice, is now selling on its own merits, and what is more important, is giving excellent satisfaction to the consumers. The result has brought about the development of a heretofore languishing industry, and to such an extent that it now bids fair to eventually change the whole complexion of our trade.

In January, 1900, after another year of experience with both the grower and the consumer, it comes out with an editorial article, saying :