

East Elgin (Mr. Ingram), and the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), on different occasions, stated that there was a large amount of tobacco smuggled into the western counties of Ontario along the international boundary line. Where the two countries are separated by water, there is no point at which the communication is so easy and so cheap as at the city where I live, there is no place along the international boundary line where, with three immense railways crossing and with the ferry system, the facilities for smuggling are so great as at Windsor. Yet, that there is no smuggling, but that the people of the county of Essex prefer to use the Essex tobacco, as I prefer to use it, as against that manufactured from the foreign product, is proved by this, that the Leamington Tobacco Company started with a small factory employing twelve or fifteen hands in 1899; yet in less than three months the output of that factory was trebled, and in less than six months it was increased sevenfold, and had increased the number of its employees about fourfold, and enlarged its premises threefold. In conversation with Mr. Fenton, the manager of the works, I asked him why he did not get his product down into the maritime provinces, and he answered: 'Notwithstanding the increase of our output, the number of hands employed and the factory space, we have never yet been able to get outside of the territory in which we first sold our product. Although the product had increased sevenfold, it was consumed in the counties of Essex, Kent, Elgin, and a portion of Middlesex. He told me that he had never been able to get further east than the city of London, because he could not get out sufficient tobacco to fill the orders west of the city of London. If these hon. gentlemen could obtain any evidence of smuggling, they should obtain it in those counties; but there is no tobacco smuggled into the country there for the simple reason that the article grown at home is equal to the foreign article. Now, there are several members of this House who smoke the Empire tobacco, which is purely a Canadian tobacco. I know a tobaccoist who told me that he had a caddie of tobacco made from foreign leaf, but that since he had got the product of the Leamington factory he had sold five caddies of that and had not yet finished the one made of foreign leaf, which is sufficient evidence in itself of the high quality of the Canadian article.

Just one word on climate and soil, and I shall close. Any man who knows anything about tobacco, any man who knows a cigar from a piece of cane-stalk, knows that I am quite within the mark when I say that the further north you can ripen a fruit or bring a plant to maturity, the finer will be its quality and texture and the greater its perfection. So the further north you can grow tobacco and succeed in ripening it perfectly, the finer will be the grade of that particular tobacco. Hon. gentlemen opposite might just as well stand up and say that because we cannot grow figs, bananas and oranges, therefore we cannot grow fruit; yet anybody who has been through the counties of Lincoln, Essex and Kent knows that we can produce in those counties a finer peach than can be grown in Southern California, Georgia, Louisiana, Florida or any other part of the United States. The hon. gentleman might just as well say that because they cannot grow figs and lemons in Nova Scotia, they cannot produce apples of a high grade in the Annapolis Valley. So, because we cannot grow the