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that the manufacturers were paying actually 12 cents and 14 cents and 15 cents a pound for the second growth of tobacco, that would not be cut in the county of Essex to-day. A gentleman residing in Leamington took advantage of the situation to hold meetings through the counties of Essex and Kent in the winter of 1897, and point out to the farmers the enormous advantage which they could gain by abandoning practically everything else and going largely into tobacco raising. He told them that he would buy every pound they grew, at 10 cents per pound and better; and in that prolific district, where they grow a ton of tobacco to the acre, any person can figure up what an enormous profit that would give. That so stimulated the farmers and others in that locality, that many people went into the growing of the plant, who had not the proper means for curing it, and the result was, that some was hung up on the fences, some under shade trees, and a large amount in stables, etc., until fully 50 per cent. of the crop went back to the manure heap. These people did not have the facilities for curing it in 1898, yet the best of it was culled out, and that was the tobacco that went on the market in 1899; and so bitter was the lesson which the producing classes of that community were taught by virtue of the bad advice given them by this gentleman in the interests of the tobacco combine, that they have profited by that bitter lesson, and last year those who went into the industry, were men capable of caring for the plant, and the crop to day produced in the county of Essex, is as fine as can be found anywhere in Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, York State or Kentucky.

Now, I come to my next authority, Mr. Thomas Semple, of Sécetric, Kentucky, the purchaser for the firm of Alexander McEwan, of Glasgow, Scotland, one of the largest importers of tobacco in the United Kingdom. In reply to a letter sent to him, Mr. Thomas Semple wrote as follows, to W. O. McNutt, Secretary Tobacco Growers' Association of Essex and Kent:

"Mr McDonald, a large manufacturer in Montreal, Canada, buys quietly freely this same grade of Burley on the Louisville market."
Burley is the variety of tobacco purchased by this Scotch firm, and samples of that variety grown in Essex were forwarded to Mr. Semple, of Kentucky, on which he gave this opinion:

"You should get a purchaser at home in Mr. McDonald, who purchases freely of this same grade of Burley in the Louisville market."
One of the best experts, one who has spent a long time in the tobacco industry, the purchaser for the large importing house of Alexander McEwan, of Glasgow, Scotland, unbound and untrammelled, with no interest in the tobacco markets of Canada, gives the statement I have just read. Then, I come to W. T. Gregory, who is a native of a tobacco district, who was brought up in the leaf tobacco trade, and has been for years expert tobacco buyer for the largest factories in the United States. For two years he has been buying in Essex. When the attack was made on Canadian tobacco by the hon. member for Richmond, N. S., (Mr. Gillies), expecting to follow that hon. gentleman, I telegraphed to Mr. Gregory asking him to wire reply, as there was no time to communicate by mail. I have here Mr. Gregory's telegram in answer:

To M. K. Cowan.

March 10, 1900.

"In reply to your inquiry, would say that the class of Canadian-grown