

what it may to this fair young country.

To prove its worth they point to our vast exports. They say, look at the amount of our exports, \$104,000,000, and exultingly exclaim: see what the National Policy has done for us. Analyse the returns, and you will see that of the \$104,000,000, \$61,000,000 went to England. They were sent to the free ports of that country, there to fight their way against the products of the world.

Our wheat has to meet there the product of cheap native labour from the fertile valleys of India, and the millions of bushels now being sent from the plains of Argentina.

Our beef has to compete against the exports from the limitless pasture lands of La Platte, and the cheap frozen beef from the Antipodes. Our butter has to compete with the dairy products of Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands, and our cheese with the cheap production of the Australian farmer.

Yet, in spite of all this opposition, in spite of all this competition, our products have held their own in the British markets, the excellence of quality securing for them a place there. We have been able to sell our products, but the price that we have received has been just such as we have been able to get, not such as would yield us profit on the goods sent, but such as the markets in England allowed.

There is no sentiment in that market. The English buyer will pay for a like quantity exactly the same price to us as to any other person. We have received no more or no less for the products we sent than the shipper from the Argentine Republic, from India, from Russia or from any other part of the earth. Sixty-one millions of our exports found their way into the open ports of England: \$43,000,000 had to fight their way unaided by any effort of this Government across the tariff barriers of the other nations of the world. Scarcely, unaided, however, for I should not forget that the Government has granted subsidies to lines of steamships to convey our products to other lands. For instance, \$122,000, or, the subsidy being in pounds, £25,000 sterling, for a line of steamships to Australia. When the delegates to the intercolonial conference were here, I was told, they brought samples of Australian cheap mutton, butter and cheese, and told the Canadian people how much more cheaply these products could be placed upon the market here than the products of the Canadian farmer.

So the Canadian farmer is asked to contribute \$122,000 a year to subsidize a line of steamships to be employed in bringing these cheap products of the Australian farms into competition with our home products. But what was the result of this subsidy? A trade aggregating altogether half a million dollars, yielding to the revenue of this country \$16,000 a year in return for \$122,000 spent.

We are told that it is treason to look with longing eyes to the vast markets for just

such products as we have to sell to be found in the great cities of the United States within close reach of us here. We are told that it is treason to look with longing eyes to this market, our prospects in which have been growing less and which now—thanks to the incapacity of the present administration—is almost lost to us.

We are told that trade follows the flag or ought to follow the flag, and we are advised to cultivate trade with the other British possessions of the world. We have been cultivating trade with the other British possessions, and the Trade and Navigation Returns show us some of the results. Excluding Great Britain, these Returns show our exports to the British possessions to be five and a half millions. This includes Newfoundland and the British West Indies, which took four and a half millions. Thus, we find that the whole British Empire, outside of the mother country, Newfoundland and the British West Indies bought from us a scant three-quarters of a million dollars worth of our products. These are the markets that are offered to us in exchange for the market that can so readily be found in the United States. Cultivate trade, they say, with our British fellow-citizens throughout the Empire, and look no longer to the market we promised to secure for you in the United States.

If the Government had been able to show that they had induced countries from which we had purchased our supplies to take our products in exchange, then they might have something to be proud of. How is it? I find in the Trade Returns that the whole value of our exports to the following countries:—Uruguay, Bolivia, Hayti, Mexico, Dutch, Danish and French West Indies, Madeira, Denmark, Turkey, Switzerland, Russia, Austria, Spain and her possessions, aggregated less in a year than we spent on the Curran Bridge or the Tay Canal. We bought from these countries and brought to our shores no less than \$1,500,000 worth of their products.

In China we sold half a million dollars worth of our products, and purchased a million dollars worth of theirs. In France we sold half a million dollars worth, and purchased \$2,500,000 of theirs. In Germany we sold two-thirds of a million dollars worth, and bought \$6,000,000 of theirs. In Japan, as the result of subsidizing a line of steamships to trade with that country, we sold less than one-thirtieth of a million dollars worth, and bought one and a half millions worth of theirs. For every \$8 we have spent in Germany they have spent \$1 here. For every \$50 we have spent in Japan they have spent \$1 here.

We have sold of our products to all the nations of the earth, outside of the British Empire and the United States, just \$5,000,000 worth, and we have purchased from these nations in exchange rather more than \$18,000,000.