

one-sided tariff, for the last year for which we have the returns :

Imported for home consumption for the year ending 30th June, 1903 :

Potatoes..	\$228,640
Fresh tomatoes..	69,014
Tomatoes and other vegetables, including corn and beans in cans..	115,905
Strawberries, blackberries, gooseberries and raspberries..	89,413
Beans..	25,590
Cherries..	14,754
Grapes..	36,970
Apples, green or ripe	79,497
Drier apples..	7,624
Melons..	16,318
Peaches..	70,903
Total..	\$754,638

That is the amount we have imported from the United States of these articles, coming in direct competition with similar products of the Canadian farmer. There was a time when it was said that we in Canada could not produce all these articles. Indeed, in the discussion of last session and the session before, some hon. gentlemen on the other side ventured to say that we could not produce many of these articles that we were importing into Canada, or that we could not produce them early enough in the season, when there was a certain demand among the richer classes in Canada for them. But the conditions are constantly changing. There was a time in the history of this country—and not so many years ago—when it was thought that we could not produce roses, when it was thought that, if we required cut flowers in our larger cities, we had to import them from the United States. But things are entirely changed owing to the thrift of the Canadian people; and, in the town in which I have the honour to live, there is a large rose-growing industry covering thirteen acres with grass; and last year this company, the Dale Estate, which is so well managed by Mr. Duggan and Mr. Algie, produce more than \$100,000 worth of cut flowers and these were sold from one end of Canada to the other while some small proportion, I am glad to say was exported to the United States. During this session a gentleman from Manitoba gave his evidence before the Committee on Agriculture and Colonization. I refer to Mr. A. P. Stevenson, a prominent Manitoban. As to fruit-growing in that province, Mr. Stevenson pointed out that, not many years ago it was thought impossible to produce apples in Manitoba; but the farmers there have faced this fruit problem and now there is some portion of the apples used in Manitoba that are produced in that province. And he ventured to say that, in a very short time, all the apples required for home consumption in Manitoba could be produced by the Manitoba farmers themselves. That should set at rest the question whether Canada

Mr. BLAIN.

can produce the articles which we are now importing from the United States. This is an important consideration and one that, I am sure, will appeal to the intelligence of the government when they are discussing their policy upon this subject.

I wish now to point out the very large quantity of certain fruits that are being imported into Canada under the free list. For instance, I find that in 1893 we imported into Canada 430,240 bunches of bananas, while, last year, 1903, we imported 942,443 bunches, or an increase in ten years in the importation of bananas alone of 512,203 bunches. To show how rapidly the consumption of this fruit is increasing in Canada I may point out that the importation in 1902 was 765,767 bunches. Thus, with an importation of 942,443 bunches last year, we find that in one year there has been an increase in this import of 176,676 bunches. Then I take the item of pineapples. In 1893, we imported 610,031, while in 1903, we imported 1,375,226. In 1902 our importation of pineapples was 1,095,949, so that there was an increase last year of 279,277. I do not wish to be misunderstood on this question. We have no special complaint at this moment with respect to the importation of these articles. These articles, as is well understood, are not grown in Canada.

Mr. COWAN. Hear, hear.

Mr. BLAIN. My hon. friend from South Essex (Mr. Cowan) says 'hear, hear.' I thought they could grow almost anything in his beautiful country.

Mr. COWAN. Pretty near, but not bananas or pineapples.

Mr. BLAIN. I do not say that the farmers or market-gardeners have any complaint on this question, but I do say that the great free list in our customs law will require cautious consideration at the hands of the government in the near future. These fruits being allowed to come into Canada free are taking the place of fruits which we can produce in Canada and which would be just as suitable for the consumption of the Canadian people. On this question of the free list I wish to give further illustration. We imported into Canada last year \$1,376,537 worth of flax seed, and of that large quantity no less than \$1,303,758 came from the United States. A fair question to ask would be: What is the duty on Canadian flax seed when it seeks admission to the United States?

The answer is 23 cents a bushel, but when the American farmer seeks a market in Canada for his flax seed it is allowed in free of duty, because this article is on the free list. I have an extract from the 'Citizen,' dated 1903, which reads as follows: