

	Per ton.
	s. d.
Butter, Montreal to Liverpool.....	27 6
" Boston "	20 0
" Montreal to London.....	30 0
" Boston "	24 0
" Montreal to Glasgow	31 6
" Boston "	30 0
Cheese, Montreal to Liverpool	22 6
" Boston "	17 6
" Montreal to London.....	25 0
" Boston "	20 0
" Montreal to Glasgow	26 3
" Boston "	25 0
	Per barrel.
	s. d.
Apples, Montreal to Liverpool	2 6
" Boston "	2 0 & 5%
" Montreal to London.....	2 6
" Boston "	2 0 & 5%
" Montreal to Glasgow	3 0
" Boston "	2 6 & 5%
" Montreal to Manchester.....	2 6
" Boston "	2 6 & 5%
Extra freight on cheese exports of 100,000 tons at 3s. 9d., say.....	\$ 90,000
Extra freight on butter exports of 17,000 tons at 5s., say	17,000
Extra freight on wheat and flour exports of 40,000,000 bush. at 1½c.	600,000
Extra freight on apples exports of 1,000,000 brls. at 10c	100,000
	\$ 807,000

Thus on these four items we pay out \$800,000 more in freight from Montreal than the rates on the same freight would be from Boston or New York. But this is not all; it is but a very small part of the loss which this causes to the farmers of Canada, for the price of these products which are exported sets the price for the quantity consumed at home, and we know that nine-tenths of our products are consumed at home. Thus we lose, not only the \$800,000 thus paid in freight, but many times \$800,000 because of the lowering of the price at home.

Therefore, I say, we might better take some of these funds that the government are squandering upon building a railway that is not asked for and equip the port of Montreal and the route from Montreal to Great Britain with whatever is necessary to make that route the best in the world. It is the boast of Canadians that we have the shortest route to Great Britain and yet it is the dearest route. That is a duty that devolves upon this government. It is something that was not mentioned in the speech from the Throne. It ought to have been mentioned and it demands the attention and the best ability that the government can give to it. I consider this one of the most important questions that could possibly be discussed. What is sure to be the result if these facilities are not provided? There are patriotic people shipping hundreds of thousands of tons of stuff by way of Montreal while they might get cheaper rates by other ports. A great many

Mr. SMITH (Wentworth).

are shipping their produce who do not realize that there is a difference in cost in reaching the old country by way of the port of Montreal, but who, when they discover the fact, will not continue to do so unless we provide facilities that will enable them to ship more cheaply, or at least as cheaply, as by a foreign port. The people of Canada will do a great deal for patriotism but there is a limit to it. They cannot be expected to be willing to be placed at this enormous disadvantage and the better course for the government would be to provide these facilities.

There is one other question to which I should like to allude. It is a small matter, perhaps, but still it is a matter of as much importance as the slight increase in the mounted police force which is mentioned in the speech from the Throne. I had hoped, as a fruit grower, to see some mention in the speech from the Throne of the establishment of an experimental farm in the Niagara district. We have at the present time five experimental farms—the same as we had ten or fifteen years ago. They are very essential to the welfare of the farmers of Canada. There is no doubt that a great deal of excellent knowledge is being disseminated from these farms, but these farms represent only a portion of this great country of ours. We have in Canada, fortunately, a climate and soil that will enable us to produce the best fruits in the world. We have in the Niagara district a large tract of territory which is capable of producing peaches, plums and all the fruits in luxurious abundance. But, we have no assistance from the government in the matter of experimenting. These experimental farms are well enough in their way and all right as far as they go, but they deal entirely with matters that are of benefit to the farmers in the northern portions of the country. These farms deal entirely with cattle, grain, dairy products, and with what is of importance only to the people who wish to grow a few trees along the northern zone of fruit culture; that is the introduction of new and hardy varieties that can be successfully grown up to the northern limits of the fruit territory of Canada. These experimental farms are putting the fruit growers in the commercial fruit belt at a disadvantage. They are actually spending money to take away our markets from us. We do not object to this, but we think in all fairness and justice that we who grow the commercial fruits of the country, we who are supplying not only the population which is here at the present time, and will supply, I believe, in the near future a largely increased population, should have some consideration. It is predicted, I believe, that in the near future we will have 5,000,000 of people in our Northwest, that the population of Canada will be doubled and that half of it will be west of