

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 Sectaric, 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 quite 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:

March 10, 1900.

To M. K. Cowan.

In reply to your inquiry, would say that the class of Canadian-grown leaf that enters into the manufacture of tobacco is of the same type and equal in quality to the foreign leaf used by manufacturers in this country.

I subsequently wrote to Mr. Gregory, asking him three questions. First, what his experience had been; second, the names of the firms for whom he had purchased in the United States, and third, their financial standing. I will give you his reply:

In reply to question No. 1, regarding my experience in tobacco, will state that have been in business thirteen years, and during that time have bought 15,000,000 pounds of tobacco. Bought two years for J. D. Cooper, exporter and specu-

lator; bought four years for Allen & Ginter, one of the largest firms in United States, and was for seven years buyer for the American Tobacco Company.

Any man who knows anything about the tobacco trade of the United States knows that the American Tobacco Company is literally the trust of the tobacco industries of the United States, and that Allen & Ginter are one of the largest, if not the largest, firm in the United States in the production of fancy types and cigarettes:

I was raised on a tobacco farm, and have seen the tobacco business in all its forms, from the field to manufactured product. The firms named are of national reputation, as you asked me to state size and standing of firms that the writer represented.

In regard to the amount of Burley used—I would ask you to notice this point particularly, and I wish to diverge again to say that nearly nine-tenths of the tobacco consumed in Canada outside of fancy Virginia grades, cigarettes and Havana cigars, is made from the Burley type:

In reply to question No. 2, in regard to amount of Burley used in manufacture of black chewing tobacco in Canada, will say that the Burley type is used almost exclusively. In regard to 'smoking,' will state that it is not used to the extent as for chewing, but the writer has seen a remarkable, yes, phenomenal, increase in the sale of Burley smoking in the past twelve months. The State of Kentucky (which produces Burley exclusively) is by far the largest tobacco-producing state in America, and a very large majority of all tobaccos are made from the Burley type, Virginia and Carolina tobaccos being used almost exclusively for cigarette and light smoking. Canada is capable of producing a type of tobacco that in flavour, texture and general character will compare most favourably with the Kentucky product. In fact, there is in the tobacco warehouse in Leamington now that is equal in every respect to the foreign leaf. Our growers are just beginning to reach that stage where they can grow it to perfection, having passed the experimental stage.

That is the opinion of one of the best tobacco experts on the continent. But I would like the hon. member for Bothwell to listen to the opinion of Mr. Alex. Harthill, of Louisville, Kentucky, one of the largest, if not the largest, leaf tobacco buyers in the world, and a world-famous authority on all that pertains to leaf tobacco, who paid a special visit to Canada last year for the purpose of investigating our leaf. After a thorough inspection of our crop he returned home, and in an interview with the representatives of the trade press, stated that he had seen tobacco grown by our farmers that was fully equal in quality to that grown in Kentucky.

Now, I hold in my hand the *Western Tobacco Journal*, published in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio. This is a copy of the issue of May 22, 1899, containing about nine columns of a description of the Canadian tobacco fields and Canadian tobacco as written by this same Alexander Harthill, of Kentucky. I do not wish to weary the