

Canada, or, if we did produce it, why it was not consumed by the Canadian people; but like the rest of these hon. gentlemen, who have taken every opportunity in their power to throw a stone at Canada's tobacco industry, they have not produced a single line of authority to show that Canadian tobacco is not in every way the equal of the foreign article. I am not foolish enough to stand up in this House, for an instant, and say that we can produce Havana fillings for cigars, but neither can they do it in the United States. I am not going to say that we can produce tobacco of the fancy types for cigars, or the finest Virginia leaf, but three-quarters of the tobacco consumed in the United States, and nine-tenths of the tobacco brought into the Dominion from the United States, can be produced to an equal, if not greater state of perfection in Canada than it can be in the United States, and I purpose backing that statement up, not by my own bald assertion, but by the best authorities—not one or two authorities, but half a dozen of the best authorities—that can be got in the tobacco world, not only on the continent of America, but the continent of Europe. Let me give you first a Canadian authority, Mr. D. H. Ferguson, of Montreal, a man of wide experience both in foreign and Canadian leaf tobacco, and, I think, I am quite within the mark, when I say there is no manufacturer in Canada, who has a wider and longer experience, or is more versed in every department of the tobacco business, both as regards the growing of tobacco and its cure and manufacture, in this Dominion. Mr. Ferguson says:

"Taking into consideration the short period that the cultivation of tobacco in Canada (particularly in Western Canada) has been in vogue, the farmers are to be congratulated on their success in producing a tobacco which in point of quality closely approaches their prototypes in the United States. I refer more particularly to the type known as 'Burley' which is now so largely used in the United States and Canada for a sweet chewing tobacco."

"I have seen and purchased this type of leaf in both the counties of Essex and Kent and can state that they approach very closely in merit the best grade grown in Kentucky and Ohio. The color and texture of the domestic article when grown under proper conditions leaves nothing to be desired from a manufacturer's standpoint."

I would like to tell my hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), that I have listened to his voice for two mortal hours, and would ask him to listen to mine, for he is the one gentleman on that side to whom I am talking to-night.

"Due allowance should however be made for the want of experience in handling and curing as compared to the long experience and the high state of cultivation which the farmers in the United States have with years of experience brought to a state of perfection. That our farmers can and do now produce a very fair grade of leaf suitable for chewing tobacco and which will improve as their experience develops goes without saying. We now manufacture in Canada plug chewing made from domestic raw leaf which is of very fair quality and compares favorably with that made from good American leaf."

Mr. Ferguson was speaking only of the crop of 1898, and I have just a word to say with regard to that crop. In 1897, the duties upon tobacco gave such a stimulus to the industry, that every kind and grade of tobacco in Canada was gobbled up at enormous prices. The hon. member for Bothwell knows

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