

mer with similar experience, who operates an extensive farm at 314 Broadway, New York. These gentlemen amuse themselves, one by writing letters from his New York ranch to the other in Hamilton, Ont., who reads them to farmer's clubs around the neighborhood. Mr. Fuller also amuses himself by writing letters to the newspapers, in which, in imitation of old Horace Greeley who some years also operated a large ranch in New York city, tells what he knows about farming, and farmers troubles and wrongs. Of course Mr. Winman, who likes to see his name in print, finds time to make lengthy speeches before his New York club, the speeches being usually telegraphed ahead of delivery to the American newspapers in Canada and the United States, in which they are printed in full the next morning.

The excessive zeal displayed by these embryo farmers in behalf of their poor, hopeless and helpless brothers usually leads them to make many ridiculous statements, leading to false conclusions. It is emphatically not true that the condition of Canadian farmers is worse than that of American farmers living contiguous to the border. If there is any difference it is in favor of Canadian farmers. In a recent issue of the *Toronto World*, a correspondent drew a vivid comparison between the Province of Ontario and the State of Michigan, the data being official. These two sections are of similar age in regard to settlement, similar climate, similar timber, and similar water communication and railway advantages, the dividing line between them having been placed there by nature. Michigan has always enjoyed full, free and unrestricted intercourse with all the other States of American Union, and whatever Mr. Winman and other annexationists may claim for Canada in the way of benefits to arise from Commercial Union are and have always been enjoyed by Michigan.

What, then, are the parallel facts regarding these two sections? We reproduce them as follows:—

	Ontario.	Michigan.
Number of families of five each...	360,776	327,387
Acres improved.....	10,172,712	8,285,862
Number of farms.....	179,000	154,000
Number of acres improved per farm.....	66	53
Value of farms and buildings.....	\$ 765,054,075	\$499,103,181
Value of farm implements.....	37,029,815	19,419,360
Value of live stock.....	80,540,720	55,720,113
Value of products for the year.....	130,044,065	91,159,858
Number of horses.....	558,809	378,778
Number of work oxen.....	14,516	40,398
Number of milk cows.....	665,382	384,578
“ other cattle.....	882,732	466,660
“ sheep.....	1,915,303	2,189,389
“ swine.....	890,226	964,071
Pounds of butter.....	34,335,538	38,821,890
“ cheese.....	57,752,105	440,540
Bushels of wheat.....	40,921,101	35,332,543
Tons of hay.....	3,094,912	1,303,889
Value of product per acre.....	\$11.50	\$10.70

This is certainly a favorable showing for Canada, for it must be remembered that Michigan is one of the most prosperous of the American States. Ontario, as will be seen, has a larger number of families, a larger average of improved lands, a larger number of farms, a larger number of improved acres per farm, a much higher aggregate valuation of farms and buildings, nearly double the value of farm implements, a much larger valuation of live stock, a much greater value of farm products grown during the year, a larger number of horses, milk cows

and other cattle, and made more cheese, wheat and hay. The only things in which superiority is accorded to Michigan is in work oxen, sheep, swine and butter.

As regards the great State of New York—the Empire State of the Union, and quite as contiguous to Ontario as Michigan, the condition of the farming interests there are bad and constantly becoming worse. That is, if the reports of the United States Department of Agriculture are correct. The last issue of those reports states that the farmers of that State are more deeply in debt than they were ten years ago; that a large proportion of the farms which were purchased ten years ago, and mortgaged, will not now sell for more than enough to pay the mortgages; that the depreciation in the value of the farming lands of the State within the last ten years is at least 33 per cent., and that probably one third of the farms in the State would not at this time sell for more than the cost of the buildings and other improvements.

Are such facts applicable to Ontario? They are not, for the latest official statistics show that the value of farm lands, buildings, live stock and agriculture and farming implements, have increased in value about 12 per cent. within the last four years.

Why, then, should Canadian farmers desire the privilege of unrestricted intercourse with Michigan and New York when those States are relatively much poorer than we are? Neither Michigan nor New York nor any other American State wants to buy anything that Canadian farmers have to sell. They are competitors with Canada in identically the same line of business, and there never can or will be any considerable interchange of agricultural commodities between them. Whatever excess of live stock, horses, sheep, swine, butter, cheese or wheat either side may have to sell, must seek a market beyond the ocean. The United States Bureau of Statistics report that during the ten months ending April 30, that country exported no less than \$132,205,970 worth of breadstuffs; why should Canada desire the privilege of sending breadstuff to the United States? If there is any shortage on either side it certainly is not on the side of the United States, and if any importations are to be made, it must be from that country to Canada. Do Canadian farmers desire to have American grain admitted free to this country? In the face of the fierce competition of India in producing wheat for the world's consumption, the United States are rapidly reducing their area planted to that grain, and depending more and more upon home demand to consume the product. In 1880 nearly 38,000,000 acres in that country were planted to wheat, while in 1886 there were less than 37,000,000 acres, although in the meantime the population increased over 10,000,000 souls. Certainly British Columbia does not want to send wheat to California, nor does Manitoba want to send wheat to Dakota, which territory last year raised 30,700,000 bushels of wheat, 20,650,000 bushels of oats, 15,800,000 of corn, and 2,500,000 bushels of flax seed—more wheat than Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Kansas, Nebraska or Missouri, and more than thirty other States and territories. Does Manitoba desire to send its surplus grain to Dakota?

Canada finds her best and most profitable customer for her surplus breadstuff and food products in Great Britain, not in the United States.