

inasmuch as the reduction of duty is not sufficient to adversely affect any mining interest, while there is a substantial advantage to the coal trade in having this question of the coal duty definitely settled. I have had something to do with legislation, both at Halifax and at Ottawa, bearing on our coal trade, which has been instrumental in bringing about the marked development that has taken place during the last twenty years, and I rejoice that in conjunction with my colleagues, I have been able to place the coal question in so satisfactory a position under the operation of this agreement.

THE FARMERS' INTEREST.

The farming interests of the Maritime Provinces have always looked upon reciprocity as most desirable. We are glad to know that our home markets have steadily increased in recent years under the wise policy of development adopted by the Canadian Government. But there are seasons when access to the American market will be of the utmost value to all engaged in the agricultural industry.

THE FRUIT GROWER.

To our fruit growers reciprocity offers the prospect of a most desirable market. Some of our finest fruits are tender and will hardly bear transportation to distant countries. If properly handled and transported to the markets of the United States, they will realize prices better than can be obtained in any other quarter. The American market for our small fruits, berries, &c., is an unlimited one. The privilege of sending these things into the United States without the intervention of tariff barriers will certainly prove advantageous to our producers.

LUMBER.

The lumber industry in the Maritime Provinces is a very extensive one, and for some classes of our lumber the American market is the most convenient. Our own duties on