

would be so very extravagant that this could not come to pass; but in the same report, which has very opportunely come to hand, as it corroborates the remarks I made during the debate on the Address as to the fact that we should have some offset in the trade of the Lower Provinces, under Confederation, for what we should lose if the Reciprocity Treaty were to be annulled, I find the following statement :—

The cost of transportation of flour from Montreal to Portland, Maine, by rail, has been reduced to the low figure of 35 cents per barrel, and from Portland, Maine, to this port, it can be conveyed for 25 cents by steamer, or 15 cents by sailing vessel, making altogether 60 cents for conveying a barrel of flour, weighing 200 lbs., by rail and steam, a distance of 885 miles, and it could be delivered at this port (St. John, N. B.) within five or six days from the time of loading at Montreal. Of course these low rates of railway freight apply to large quantities only.

Well now, gentlemen, the distance from Montreal to St. John, by railway, is at a rough estimate about 600 miles.

HON. MR. CURRIE—Not so much—about 500 only.

HON. MR. RYAN—So much the better for my argument, but I will give my hon. friend the benefit of the 600 miles. Now, the further a barrel of flour is carried the less the freight per mile is, because you get rid of the cost of handling it at successive stages. If you can carry it from Montreal to Portland, say 300 miles, for 35 cents, you can certainly carry it 600 miles for less than twice that sum, or let us say for 60 cents, not more than what it now costs by the combined rail and steamboat route *via* Portland, while the flour conveyed all the way by rail will be the better for not being moved about from one means of conveyance to another. I have indeed reason to believe, from a very good railway authority, that it would pay a railway company well to carry flour from Montreal to St. John for from 60 to 70 cents per barrel, and that if it were necessary, the work could be done at a profit at 50 cents per barrel. (Hear, hear.) I want to shew by this, that the carrying of flour over the Intercolonial Railway will not be so difficult of accomplishment as people who have not gone into the calculation closely may be disposed to imagine. (Hear, hear.) I have here, too, a statement of the imports of flour into New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. It is as follows :—

| Imports of Flour. | Barrels. |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| New Brunswick..... | 243,000 |
| Nova Scotia..... | 328,000 |
| Newfoundland..... | 226,000 |
| | <hr/> 797,000 <hr/> |

If we now look at our imports and exports for 1863, we shall find that we imported into Canada 4,210,942 bushels of wheat, while we exported only 3,030,407 bushels. Well, this may appear strange, considering that we are an agricultural and exporting country; but we come next to the article of flour, and find that while we imported only 229,793 barrels, we exported 1,095,691 barrels.

HON. MR. CURRIE—We imported wheat to grind it into flour.

HON. MR. RYAN—Exactly so. The excess of flour exported was 865,898 barrels, which, taken at $4\frac{1}{2}$ bushels to the barrel, would be equal to 3,836,541 bushels of wheat. Deducting from this the excess of our imports over our exports of wheat, viz., 1,180,535 bushels, will leave us 2,716,006 for export, which at the same calculation, viz., $4\frac{1}{2}$ bushels to the barrel, gives us 603,557 barrels of surplus flour, ground from wheat in Canada, with which to supply the demand of the three Maritime Provinces mentioned of 797,000 barrels. (Hear, hear.) Thus, if the Reciprocity Treaty be repealed, we can just about supply what they annually require. (Hear, hear.) Their importations are moreover very constant, for the return says :—

Our importations of wheat flour in 1863 amounted to 243,391 barrels, against 232,237 barrels in 1862; 210,676 barrels in 1861, 198,323 barrels in 1860; 295,356 barrels in 1859, 226,649 barrels in 1858; and 153,515 barrels in 1857.

That is as far as wheat or wheaten flour is concerned. They consume also a large quantity of pork, a large quantity of beef and other produce; but I do not wish to trespass longer upon the time of the House.

VOICES—"Go on."

HON. MR. RYAN—I will just read from the New Brunswick return. It says :—

Our importations into the Province in 1863, of all kinds of agricultural produce, amounted in value to \$2,060,702, the description of which was as follows :—Flour and meal of all kinds, bread, beans, peas and pot barley, \$1,333,786; grain of all kinds, bran, horse and pig feed, \$148,413; vegetables, including potatoes, \$76,769; meats