

through our canals or over our railways, as heretofore, giving employment to the people of Canada. No doubt there were grave doubts at that time as to the effect that would be produced by the imposition of a duty upon foreign breadstuffs, because it would subject exporters to transmit their goods in bond at some little trouble, and perhaps at some expense; and it was contended by hon. gentlemen opposite, that these circumstances would drive the trade into channels other than the St. Lawrence. I have, from year to year, been able to make a statement, showing that the fears expressed by hon. gentlemen at that time were, so far as our experience then went, without foundation, and I think the experience of the last five years goes to show that their fears were groundless. For instance, I find as follows:—

Value of exports foreign goods from 1st	
July, 1878, to 1st July, 1884.....	\$53,384,455
Value of exports foreign goods from 1st	
July, 1874, to 1st July, 1879.....	41,003,910
Increase.....	<u>\$12,380,545</u>

That will be a sufficient answer to hon. gentlemen who entertained fears upon this subject at that time for shipment, instead of sending them by the St. Lawrence and by the winter ports of the Maritime Provinces. Again, it was said when those resolutions were introduced that they were unpatriotic, that their effect would be to diminish trade with the mother country and increase our trade with the United States. That was the statement made by hon. gentlemen opposite, and we were told we were unpatriotic, that we were really assisting our American neighbors rather than the country to which we owe allegiance, and the country to which our sympathies naturally lean. Here are the facts with respect to that matter: