

pounds. We exported, in the same year, 7,621,924 pounds, showing that it took 14,600,000 pounds of foreign pork to fill up the supply in our home market. Under increased protection in 1894 we imported pork products to the amount of only \$361,140 and exported them to the value of over \$2,000,000. Now, Sir, that being the case, my contention is, that the National Policy secured to the farmers of this country a home market to the extent of at least 14,600,000 pounds of pork. I can, therefore, claim that the National Policy has benefited the farmers of this country to that extent. Let me also look for a moment at the other farm products imported into Canada. Here is the record for 1878, under the tariff for revenue only of the Liberal Government, compared with 1892, under the present Government:

	In 1878.	In 1892.
Butter	\$ 23,773	\$ 50,013
Lard	211,949	50,554
Bacon	219,293	93,802
Beef	31,709	94,070
Pork	637,845	483,773
Apples and pears..	90,769	80,367
Vegetables	57,683	140,666
Oats	551,365	1,867
Rye	77,398	269
Corn	3,535,579	862,455
Wheat	6,510,131	67,678
Flour	1,853,620	153,229
Total.....	\$13,901,114	\$2,076,742

We therefore imported \$11,824,372 worth of farm products less under the National Policy than were imported under the tariff for revenue only of the Opposition. In other words, if the tariff for revenue only of the Opposition had been in force since 1878, we would, in all probability, have continued to import nearly \$12,000,000 worth of products which the farmers of our own country now furnish under the National Policy. I think, Sir, that this, of itself, is sufficient to show that the National Policy is in the interests of the farmers of this country. Not only that, Sir, but to show that the Government have the interests of the farmers of the country at heart. I may mention that they have established experimental farms throughout the country for the assistance of the farmers, and they have appointed a dairy commissioner to assist the cheese and butter industry—and I may say, speaking for our own province, that the dairy commissioner has accomplished wonders there. An industry that did not exist under the former Administration has been brought into existence by the present Government through the protection which their policy has given the farmers, and that industry has been brought into such prominence that the people of Prince Edward Island, as the dairy commissioner said the other day before the Committee on Agriculture, now manufacture the finest cheese in the Dominion of Canada. The present Government have promoted the in-

terests of the farmers in other ways. They have subsidized lines of steamers from the maritime provinces to the West Indies, which are building up a commerce in agricultural produce and fish which is in the interest of the farmers and fishermen of the lower provinces. That West India market is growing, year after year; and, while we have a near-by market to some extent in the city of Halifax, it is always relieved by the quantities which these subsidized steamers carry from that port to the West Indies. In that way, the West India trade tends to keep the market steady, and the prices better than they otherwise would be. One thing we are accused of by the hon. gentlemen of the Opposition is that we have increased the city population and decreased the rural population. Now, Mr. Speaker, I contend that the building up of the city population is building up increased markets for the farmers of this country, and every person from the rural population on being transferred to the city, who was a contributor to what the city required, becomes a consumer. In that way the National Policy has built up cities, towns and villages, and every city and town and village that has been increased in population under the operation of the National Policy has been increasing the markets of the farmers of this country. The Government are accused of spending large sums of money. Well, I think every progressive Government must spend money in a new country like this, in whose future we have such hope and confidence. It may be here mentioned that when the present Government came into power, we had no trans-continental railway; we had no steamship lines with Asia or Australia; we had no steamships subsidized to the West Indies; we had no Sault Ste. Marie canal; we had none of the branch railways that penetrate almost every section of Canada, and one of which we hope to see almost constructed in our province. The Government has certainly aided railways and built and deepened canals. In doing this they were doing what was beneficial to the country, and what strengthened the credit of Canada in the markets of the world. Now, Sir, let us inquire for a moment if the National Policy has increased the price of manufactured goods, as was predicted, and as is still, to some extent, maintained by the gentlemen of the Opposition. We all know, Sir—everybody in Canada knows—that there never was a time when manufactured goods were as cheap in Canada as they are at present. There never was a time when the necessaries of the poor man could be purchased with so little money; there never was a time when the purchasing power of a dollar was as great as it is at present. Everything you eat, everything you wear, everything you require, made in this country, is cheaper now than it ever has been heretofore. In fact, it is scarcely