

years, they saw the tobacco industry, which, at one time, was an industry in this country, but which, by the absolute stupidity of hon. gentlemen opposite languished from year to year, declined by different steps and grades until it got down simply to an infinitesimal part of the tobacco consumed in Canada. At one time they made a man take out a license to grow it. Then there was practically only one man who could buy it, and you may depend upon it that the buyer was not Grit. Where there were acres of tobacco in Essex and Kent years ago, it got down to practically none, until the business management of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) and his colleagues took hold of it, and placed it upon its feet. I will tell you what the explanation is. Prior to 1897 you could not mix Canadian and foreign tobacco in Canada. I could go to Turkey and get the Turkish or Egyptian tobacco; I could go to Cuba and get the Cuban tobacco; I could go to Virginia and buy the lemon wrapper produced in that state; I could go to Kentucky and buy the Burley tobacco, and I could bring them to Canada and mix them and blend them to suit myself and put any wrapper on them I saw fit; but if I were a producer or a manufacturer of Canadian tobacco, the government of which the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) was a bright and shining light—in supporting them, in the back concessions in the western counties—that government said: You can put a lemon Virginia wrapper around Kentucky Burley, but you cannot cover up Canadian Burley with it. Let me tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) that every one of those plugs of smoking tobacco I have produced has a wrapper grown in the State of Virginia, and which cannot be grown in any other State of the American Union. That lemon-colored wrapper is not grown elsewhere. The result of the policy of the Conservative government was, that the Canadian manufacturer producing Canadian Burley tobacco had to put a Burley wrapper around it. What was the result? We have not yet succeeded in growing a decent wrapper in Canada, but we can grow as good a wrapper as they grow in New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania or Kentucky. But, in the United States they do not have to put an Ohio wrapper around Ohio tobacco. The result of the policy of the Conservative government was that we had to put our tobacco on the market just as it was, and its appearance damned it in the sight of every man. This government had business ability enough to grapple with the situation, and when the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) goes back to his county, and asks in the different school-houses what this Liberal government has done, let him put his hands in his pants pocket, produce his tobacco, and every plug of Canadian Burley he finds there with a Virginia wrapper around it will demonstrate to him something done by this government, and something which has meant thousands and thousands of dollars to the people of this country. In 1897, when these tobacco duties were imposed, this Liberal government passed a regulation that any factory could take out a license to blend tobacco. They could have it all Canadian, if they wanted to; they could have it all foreign tobacco, if they wanted to; or they could mix it, and this government showed its wisdom by going a step further and providing as a safeguard, until such time as the tobacco industry got on its feet, that the manufacturer should not put a lemon wrapper around any tobacco