

in cottons, 20 to 25 per cent. in woollens, and 30 to 40 per cent. in iron. Now, my hon. friend took exception to my having said that England had not been blest with this wave of prosperity with which all the other countries have been blest; but he quoted not one figure, not one dictum, to disprove the truth of that statement. I will not weary the House with quoting figures on this subject, but I will quote evidence, which even my hon. friend cannot gainsay, to prove the absolute correctness of my statements. I will quote from what Mr. Gladstone, who, I suppose, is a reasonably good authority, said on this subject in 1881, on the floor of the House of Commons, when producing his Budget Speech, he being then Chancellor of the Exchequer. At the very time when hon. gentlemen opposite were talking about the great wave of prosperity from which all countries were benefiting, he said of Free Trade England:

"The revenue is just beginning to recover from a serious depression. The House will perceive from the figures I have made, that the impressions current in some quarters regarding the degree in which the revenue has revived, are more sanguine than the facts have warranted. There is upon the whole a beginning of recovery; but I do not think it will be judicious to describe it as more than a beginning."

Then he makes this remark further on, in the middle of his speech:

"We make ground at such rate and for such a long time that people begin to believe we shall never cease to make ground: but I wish Parliament to understand that we are not making ground at present."

That is 1881.

"I speak of the last few years, and without reference to party differences, and I say we are rather losing than making ground."

What was the condition of Canada then? We all recollect very well when the hon. Minister of Finance came down in 1881 and declared here, on the floor of Parliament, that he had a surplus of some \$4,300,000; that the industries of Canada had been raised from the point of depression and despair to a condition of such prosperity as surprised not only this House and the country, but the civilized world. We heard the statements made on the other side that this was merely a result of the great wave of prosperity; but that wave of prosperity was not bearing England on its crest, for, at that time, she was in the trough of the sea. Mr. McIvor, of Birkenhead, said, on the floor of the House of Commons, at that very time:

"He believed that ere long a cry would come from the working classes of the country for a reversal of our present policy."

What did Mr. Gladstone say in 1882? He said:

"With respect to the general financial condition of the country, I will only say that essentially the position of expenditure is that it is a somewhat growing expenditure; and with respect to the revenue, that it is a somewhat sluggish revenue."

This was in 1882.

"It is as much as it has been during the last two years."

We know what it was in 1881.

"It is very remarkable that although employment is generally active and although the condition of trade cannot be said to be generally satisfactory, yet the recovery of the country from the point of extreme depression has been a slow and languid recovery, especially as far as regards the action of that recovery upon the revenue of the country."

That year the hon. Finance Minister declared a surplus of over \$6,000,000. And Mr. Childers, in his Budget of 1883, says:

"Although many items of revenue have been for a long time sluggish, they are now rising."

Only "rising!" A little further on he says:

"I am bound to say that, having looked well through the revenue, as well as the expenditure, I cannot find that the Exchequer has as yet received anything in other directions, to make up for the great fall in the revenue from spirits."

Sir Stafford Northcote said:

"It is very satisfactory to find that the condition of the country is not so bad as we had some reason to think."

Mr. McNEILL.

And the *Times*, on the 6th April, instant, said:

"It was known that the surplus, of which we had to dispose, though fairly satisfactory, as a proof that the country was not unprosperous, was, as a matter of fact, a small one."

The *London Times* of the next day said:

"Without in the least desiring to take a pessimist view of our national condition, we venture to say that it is not one which dispenses us from strict caution and economy. In some respects it may be described as precarious. \* \* \* Though the volume of our trade remains, the profit has been reduced."

Mr. Rylands, in bringing forward his motion in the House, with regard to the national expenditure, referred to the unsatisfactory state of trade, and enforced his argument in favor of economy by a reference to the unsatisfactory condition of agriculture. Mr. Smith, late First Lord of the Admiralty, also referred to the depressed state of trade and agriculture. I may say that there has been a falling off of the volume of trade of England for the first three months of the present year. Now, I think, that under these circumstances, it is not necessary for me to say more to prove that the condition of England has not been one of prosperity at a time when hon. gentlemen opposite have been declaring that the whole world was prosperous, as an explanation of the fact that Canada was prosperous. My hon. friend knows very well that there has been a great reaction in England against this one-sided Free Trade.

Mr. DAVIS No, no.

Mr. McNEILL. In support of that statement, I will give an authority which I think no hon. gentleman on the other side of the House will gainsay. I will read an extract from a speech delivered by Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons, on the occasion of the introduction of a motion by Mr. Ritchie, calling for an investigation of the whole trade relations of England with foreign powers. Mr. Gladstone said:

"Unfortunately the knowledge of the fact that proposals for a Committee of Inquiry had been supported by the late leader of the House of Commons could not be confined within these walls or within these shores. They would go abroad, and how would the right hon. gentleman face the consequences of his success (Ministerial cheers.) Did he not know very well that the knowledge of such a vote going throughout England and the civilized world at once became the strong argument in favor of Protection and hostile tariffs? (Oh! and cheers.) The advocates of Protection would then be able to say that the delusion of Free Trade, even in its very stronghold, was shaken to its base, and that one of the great parties in the country by the mouth of its leader admitted that it had become a subject for solemn inquiry. (Cheers.)"

Now, Mr. Gladstone, I suppose, can explain away his own words as well as any other person, probably better; but at all events the fact remains immovable that a proposal for an investigation into the question as to whether the policy of one-sided Free Trade was good or bad for England, was made in the House of Commons in England, and was supported by the leader of one of the great parties of the State; and this fact also remains, that eighty-nine members of the House of Commons supported that motion against 140 who were opposed to it. My hon. friend knows that while he himself was in England, only a few years ago, it would have been impossible for any member to get up on the floor of the House of Commons and suggest such an investigation and obtain a hearing. It certainly proves what the feeling in England is, and that the feeling in England is growing that this delusion of Free Trade is shaken to its base.

Motion agreed to; and the House again resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee.)

175. Geological Survey..... \$60,000.00

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. At the time the vote for Civil Government was up, I explained that the whole vote for this branch of the service, last year—some \$30,000—was included in the expenses of the Department. By a new