

L'Islet (Mr. Desjardins), who spoke for such a long time yesterday, on the various ways in which he presented his conclusions. It is not likely that I will read to you from Mr. Gladstone's answer to Mr. Blaine's letter, from which the hon. gentleman read very copious extracts yesterday. It is not very likely, or is it expected from me, that I will follow him into the relations of the continental powers and spend half an hour talking on that subject, as he did yesterday. We are not here for the purpose of discussing the questions arising in foreign countries, but we are here as practical men for the purpose of considering the questions before us, in reference to the interests of our own country, and in reference to its advancement; and in order to be practical we must come down to practical things. We were told yesterday that the National Policy had accomplished a great deal. We were told that it had raised this country from a period of depression to a period of progression. We were told that it brought us from a condition of despondency to a condition of hopefulness. We were told that it brought us from a condition of financial stringency to a period of cash in abundance; from a period of declining foreign trade to a period of enlarged commerce; from a period of emigration to a period of immigration, and from a period of dependence on the United States markets to an independence of the United States markets. Sir, we were told yesterday that we were brought from a period of a desire for reciprocity, to a period of repudiation of reciprocity even in natural products. But, Sir, I want to examine this National Policy in some of its details, and ascertain, if possible, if the benefits attributed to the National Policy have been realized by the people of Canada. We have been told frequently in eloquent language by the hon. Minister of Finance, by the hon. Minister of Agriculture, by the hon. Minister of Justice, and by their followers in this House and in different parts of the country, that our foreign trade was being increased; that although the protective policy had tended to prevent us realizing the markets of the United States to the extent we desired, yet in their absence there were markets beyond the sea and in other parts of the world which were being opened up to the export trade of Canada. Let me read to you some remarks made by Sir John Macdonald in 1882 in reference to this particular question. He was pointing out the great efforts being made under the National Policy to extend our trade with foreign countries. He made reference to the efforts made by the Liberal party, and in asserting their failure, he proceeded to express himself in these words:

"I am not aware—my memory may be at fault—that those gentlemen opposite ever made a single advance to any foreign nation, or sought to develop the trade of Canada in any part of the civilized or uncivilized world. I believe it was in our time that the development and extension of our trade was commenced, and I am proud to say that our mother country is truly a mother country in the best sense of the word, always assisting us; especially of late, in any attempt or any expressed desire of Canada for the development of her trade with any and every country in the world. * * * We commenced at once to extend our trade. In the first place we went to a nation on this side of the Atlantic, and we have got the official, the not ostentatious, but, to a great extent, the expressed assistance of Her Majesty's representative at the Court of Brazil, and we have now a line running monthly between Canada and Brazil, and although that trade is in its infancy, I think the indications are clear that one of our best markets in the future will be Brazil. The commodities of the two countries are of such diverse

nature that we can profitably send our productions to Brazil and receive hers in exchange."

Now, Sir, that was a very plausible speech. His Government attempted to establish a trade with Brazil, and what assistance had they in that attempt? First, they had the assistance of the mother country; secondly, they had the assistance of the British Minister at the Court of Brazil; thirdly, they had a diversity of products to exchange with that country, one product being the complement of the other; fourthly, they had a line of steamers running between the ports of the Maritime Provinces and Brazil at that time; and fifthly, they had the advantage of the National Policy. Not a single word could be said against that speech in 1882 when Sir John Macdonald delivered it; it appeared plausible from the first line to the last. But eight years have since passed; and the course of that trade will show what hon. gentlemen opposite have accomplished during that time under the National Policy and by all the favourable circumstances to which Sir John Macdonald referred. Let us see. In 1882, when Sir John Macdonald spoke, our export trade with Brazil was \$493,000. This was the trade which he expected to enlarge almost beyond bounds. Now, let us see what all this assistance has brought to the Government during these eight years. Our trade last year with the same country was \$352,200, or \$141,000 less than it was when Sir John Macdonald made this speech, and our average annual trade with Brazil for these eight years was only \$352,700. I ask the members of the Conservative party if they are satisfied with the condition of this export trade, which has depreciated 30 per cent. during those eight years? But, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has been particularly eloquent also in pointing out the prospects and possibilities of trade in other directions. Hear what he has said in regard to our trade with the West Indies. On that subject he has spoken eloquently in every Budget speech which he has delivered, and I think I have heard them all. He says that the West Indies produce a great many things which we require in this country, and that we produce a great many things which they require. That is true. They want flour, but they go to the United States for it; they want pork, but they go to the United States for it; they want to sell sugar, but they sell it principally in the United States; and so on through all the lines of trade. But, Sir, the hon. Minister said:

"I have had something to do with steamship lines to the West Indies, and I am able to state that a very profitable market stands open in that direction for nearly every product."

Now, what has been the result? When the hon. member for East York (Mr. Mackenzie) was at the head of the Government, it was said by Sir John Macdonald that he was doing nothing at all in the direction of extending our foreign trade. Now, Sir, I find that in 1878 we sent to the West Indies \$3,765,000 worth of goods. But in order to consider this question in a fair way, I have divided the years from 1873 to 1890, inclusive, into three periods of six years each. The first period extends from 1873 to 1878, inclusive, the second from 1879 to 1884, inclusive, and the third from 1885 to 1890, inclusive; and when I speak of the first, second and third respectively, hon. gentlemen will know to what divisions of time I refer. In the