

therefore, if it depended simply on the English market, that wheat would have had to go down 3 cents in price per bushel, in order to compete with the wheat sent from Chicago. But it brought 3 cents more, because, as we know—after the harvest is in, and a large portion of it has been shipped to England—the quantity of Canadian grain in the country being diminished, Canadian millers have to pay an increased price for the wheat which they require, and this increase naturally goes into the pockets of our farmers, who reap the benefit. The miller, therefore, has either to go to the United States market and pay the duty, or he has to pay the price which the farmer demands for his grain here; consequently our farmers, ten days ago received 3 cents more per bushel for their wheat than they would have obtained had our market been open and exposed to the danger of being broken down by shipments from the other side, which, without the duty, would have been thrown in here, and thus brought into competition with the produce of our own agriculturists. The returns on the Table of the House show that in the years 1879-80 and 1880-81, there were 10,000,000 bushels more of Canadian grain consumed in Canada, than was the case during the two years previous. We had, therefore, a market for the products of Canada to the extent of 5,000,000 bushels of grain per annum, which we did not before possess, and it is thus we derive the benefit. Our exports of the products of Canada have been somewhat increased, and a home market for 5,000,000 more bushels of grain has been provided for our farmers who have obtained better prices than they would have received, had their market been open to free competition with the farmers of the Western States; and in this manner, the Tariff has conferred a decided benefit upon our agriculturists. I have the evidence here which will show the exact extent of the reduction in imports of breadstuffs. In 1877, we consumed in Canada, 5,210,890 more bushels of United States wheat than we did in 1881, and in 1878 we consumed 2,161,867 bushels more than we did in 1881. In 1877, we consumed 599,737 more bushels of American oats than we did in the year 1881, and in 1878, we consumed 1,999,153 more bushels of United States oats than we did in the year 1881, showing that in 1881 we had a home market for 7,302,000 bushels more of home grown grain than the average for the years 1877 and 1878. That is sufficient, I think, to establish pretty clearly that the home market for the farmers of Canada, with an increased price in certain seasons, gives them what they would not possess if that home market was open to the Americans to send in their produce free as they have done down to 1878 or 1879. Considering the fact that the farmer, as well as the laborer, the artisan and the masses of the people, pay no more for the goods they consume than they did in 1878; considering that he has the home market free from competition to a very great extent, for such products as I have named as well as vegetables, fruit and other articles that may be considered perishable, and securing higher prices than he did before; I think it will be difficult to convince him that, under the present policy, he is not benefitted, and to induce him, under any circumstances, to oppose a policy that has so increased the value of his produce. Having dealt with these points I desire to deal with another objection, and that is that the ill-feeling that would be created in England from the adoption of this policy would affect our credit there. I answered that last Session, and in this way: that in 1878 the securities of New South Wales, which were the highest colonial securities in the English market, sold from 4 to 5 per cent. above Canadian; that while Canadian 4 per cent. securities had increased from about 89 or 90 to 104, that the other colonial securities had not increased in like proportion; that then Canadian securities were 1 per cent. above those of New South Wales, and therefore

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their increased value was not solely attributable to the abundance of money and the lower rate of interest. I am in a position to state to-day, that our securities are 2 per cent. above those of New South Wales, showing a relative increase over last year, and standing, as they stood then, at the very top of every colonial security that is offered in the English market, and next to Consols. In this connection, I may remind honorable members that I laid on the Table of the House, a few days ago, the particulars of an arrangement made with our agents for the transaction of our business for ten years. Messrs. Baring and Glyn, Mills & Co. have acted as the agents of Canada for many years; and down to 1873 and 1874 the arrangements made by old Canada and the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were, that they were to receive 1 per cent. for the negotiation of loans, 1 per cent. on their redemption, and 1 per cent. for the payment of interest on the coupons. Since then an arrangement was made by which the percentage on the coupons was reduced to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on bonds issued after 1873. It was in contemplation, when our High Commissioner was appointed to London, to make arrangements by which that agency should become a financial agency as well, and I stated to the hon. member for Centre Huron (Sir Richard J. Cartwright), who put some questions to me last Session and the Session before, that this matter was delayed, owing to a difficulty that had arisen with the agents, as they claimed that outstanding bonds having been issued, payable at the offices of Messrs. Baring and Glyn, Mills & Co. they had the right, as long as they were in a position to do so, to redeem them and receive the commission. As it was likely to lead to a controversy which neither party desired to bring about, the result was that a proposition was made to Sir Alexander Gait by our agents, that, for the future, commencing on the 1st of January last—and that proposal was accepted—the commission for paying all coupons would be uniform, namely, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. That saves \$15,000 yearly in commissions to agents. Then we have \$35,000,000 that may be redeemed in 1885. We have arranged in this contract, and instead of their receiving 1 per cent. on the redemption of these securities—they have agreed to exchange 4 per cent., or possibly securities bearing a lower rate of interest, with the holders of the 5 per cent. securities, who may desire to do so—that is, redeem them by an issue of new debentures for $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which, if we paid 1 per cent. for the redemption, and even $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the negotiation of the new loan, would save 1 per cent. on \$35,000,000, making a saving of \$350,000 on that transaction. Now, Sir, I think I have pretty thoroughly answered the objections made in 1878 to this policy, and answered them by facts gathered from the Public Accounts, facts gathered from the Trade Returns, facts gathered as I accept them from reliable men, but of course subject to correction, and if they are not correct we wish to have them corrected. We want to have the facts with reference to this matter and then we shall know precisely where we stand; but we present them here believing them to be correct, and consequently proving that our case is strong, and that the fears entertained by hon. gentlemen opposite were groundless. Let us look again for a few moments before I close, at the operations of this Tariff. How has it affected the different interests of this country? Take, for instance, the owners of bank stocks, it has not injured them. The stock owned in Ontario and Quebec to-day, at the quoted prices of sales made within a week, is \$20,000,000 above what the quoted sales in 1879 would produce. Has it hurt the manufacturers? It has not, because while they say they are selling goods less than they did before, business has largely increased. They are working full time, making prompt sales, and their increased productions, at even a lower price, have given them better profits than before. Have the men employed by the manufacturers suffered? They have not, because we