

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 1,999,156 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 for 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 labourer, the artisan and the masses of the people, pays no more for the goods he consumes than he 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