

the last year of the previous Government—that is to say, about \$217,000,000. From that moment it steadily decreased. It ran down during my hon. friend's administration from \$217,000,000 to \$172,000,000, a difference of \$45,000,000 to the disadvantage of this country. Every year marks a diminution. The aggregate of the trade of this country for the past year was \$201,000,000 greater than it had ever been, with the exception of one year, since 1874-75.

HON. MR. SCOTT—In 1883 it was \$230,000,000.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—But my hon. friend will see that was under the National Policy. The aggregate of trade began increasing the moment my hon. friend's Government went out of power. I do not refer to the small differences which occurred in different years under the same policy: what I say is, that the increase has been steady ever since my hon. friend's Government went out of power and the new policy was initiated. It was \$172,000,000 the last year that my hon. friend's Government was in power; to day it is \$201,000,000.

HON. MR. SCOTT—A difference of ten years.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend's Government was in power five years. If they had remained in power ever since, and the trade of the country had decreased in the same proportion, we should now be burning up our ships for fuel, and our factories and commercial buildings would have become useless. If these figures are to be a test of the trade of the country, from the moment the change of Government took place trade began to increase, and it is at this moment \$30,000,000 more than it was when my hon. friend's Government went out of power. It must be remembered that of the \$201,000,000 we are only counting \$35,000,000 as raw materials imported into the country. If we had imported them in the manufactured state they would have gone far towards adding another hundred of millions of dollars to the imports. That is not to be forgotten; and where has this difference gone? It has gone into the country. It has not gone to sustain manufacturers and their employes, in Man-

chester and the Eastern States. It has built up our own trade; it has supported our own industries and our own people; it has built up our own country. That is what has been done with that margin: that is how it is to be accounted for. So, when we come to appeal to the figures and to look at them in a business like way we find in point of fact that since this system has commenced the aggregate trade has continuously increased, and that it is now within a fraction of the largest that it has been at its most prosperous period; and it has reached that sum without taking into consideration the enormous increment of value that the \$35,000,000 has received.

HON. MR. POWER—I understood my hon. friend from Montreal to state the value of the raw material imported at very much lower figures.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—The amount is \$35,000,000. In 1868 it was \$5,000,000; in 1888 it was \$35,000,000, and I speak of the difference as \$30,000,000. It does not seem to me that this is a very unfavorable showing for our trade, nothing to justify the wholesale condemnation of the system which my hon. friend has pronounced. In connection with this, with respect to the reciprocity question, I was very much pleased to hear the tone in which my hon. friend from Halifax spoke of it. As to reciprocity of trade between us and the United States, there is no man in this country who does not agree with my hon. friend from Halifax as to the reciprocity into which we might be able to enter. My hon. friend from Ottawa says, "You cannot force trade away from the United States; you may pass as many differential laws as you like, but you cannot force trade away from the United States." We do not want to force trade away from the United States; we want to trade with every body, and we put every nation in the world on the same footing for the express purpose of trading with every body alike. But there is a considerable difference between the view of my hon. friend from Halifax as to the reciprocity that would be advantageous to us and the view of the hon. member from Ottawa—they are as far apart as the poles. The hon. member from Halifax says justly and wisely that there are a good many articles in which

HON. MR. ABBOTT.