

tons a year. The export from Canada was not increased, but the shipment of coal from Nova Scotia to the Province of Quebec represented the difference between the two periods. The National Policy had the effect of sending up 800,000 tons of coal in the past year to the Province of Quebec. How far that was a profit to the Province of Quebec or the Dominion at large, I am not prepared to say. We have no statistics that will show us anything with regard to that. All that I am engaged upon at the present moment is to show what our exports from the ports of Canada are and how far they enable us to meet the increased liabilities that the National Policy, or the expenditure of the past ten years has put on the country, and therefore I am not prepared to discuss the merits or the profits of the internal trade. From the Province of British Columbia our export of coal has increased very largely. In 1874, the first year for which we have any record, the export was 51,000 tons; in 1889 it was 470,000 tons. The reason why that shows up so well is because the coal on the Pacific coast is not so favourably situated for American consumers as the coal of our Canadian mines, and therefore we may hope and anticipate that a very large increase will year by year be made in the export of coal from the Province of British Columbia. But the National Policy, or the principle of protection, does not promote or help that export in any way at all. If the duties were removed from our coal industries—if the duties were removed that are now imposed on articles that enter into the labour engaged in the mines—it would probably yield a very large profit to those engaged in the industry, enabling them to compete more successfully, and to increase the export from 470,000 tons to 1,470,000 tons. That is the benefit that a reduction or a total abolition of the duties is going to effect. It leaves to the individual enterprise of any man all the scope that he requires; it leaves to the individual merits of any industry all the encouragement that it requires. If it cannot live on the same terms that the trade in Great Britain lives under—a free trade policy looking for the markets of the world—then it is not an industry that can be profitably pursued in this country; but if it does it will go on increasing its trade and output, bringing wealth to the country from the outside world. The next return is the export of our agricultural pro-

ducts. We have always prided ourselves very much indeed on the export of our dairy produce—always pointed with great pride to the increase in the export of cheese, and the value that this industry has been to the country at large. Hon. gentlemen will be surprised when I tell them that in 1881—eleven years ago—we exported just as much dairy produce from Canada as during this past year, and that in the ten years since the protective tariff was imposed the export of our dairy produce has increased very little in comparison to the increase of population. I will give you the figures. The export of our dairy produce from 1879 to 1884 was: cheese, 314,642,095 pounds, valued at \$32,398,836; and butter, 81,836,653 pounds, valued at \$15,087,454, or a total export of \$47,486,290; from 1885 to 1890 the export of cheese was 498,341,033 pounds, and butter 25,632,769 pounds, or a total value of \$54,058,230. From 1879 to 1884 there was \$1,000,000 pounds of butter exported, valued at \$15,000,000, and from 1885 to 1890 there was exported only 25,000,000 pounds of butter, valued at \$4,700,000. In 1881 the value of the export of our butter and cheese was \$9,083,000; in 1890 it was only \$9,700,000, showing an increase of only a little over \$600,000 in ten years, comparing two separate years together. Counting butter equal to two and a-half pounds of cheese, and adding both together the total export of our dairy produce in pounds was 519,233,795 for the six years from 1879 to 1884, as against 561,422,955 for the six years from 1885 to 1890. Adding the two amounts together we have \$47,000,000 worth of dairy produce exported for the first part of the period during which the tariff was imposed, as against \$54,000,000 in the last half—six years in each period, or an increase of a little over \$1,000,000 a year. Now, hon. gentlemen, if there is anything that we can export, if there is anything the country ought to be capable of exporting, it is our dairy produce, because our country is naturally suited for it; and I wish to point out what another country has done in the same period. Denmark, whose climate is somewhat similar to ours, a small country of only a little over 2,000,000 of population, has the advantage of being somewhat closer to England, but our ocean facilities are now so good, and the facilities for storing and keeping things sweet are so good that it is brought down to the smallest point in the difference there is in distance. Denmark the last two years has increased her