

tioned be nearly met without any new burdens being imposed on the people. I will not test the patience of the House by any lengthy statistics to prove my last assertion, but will merely refer to one or two points of our past progress as an earnest of what we may look to accomplish in the future. I do not risk much when I say, that it is as certain as I stand here now, that no new and comparatively undeveloped country such as ours ever had a more certain future before it. We have vast and varied resources; and though our growth has not been as rapid as some other Colonies, or as some States of the neighboring Union; though our Northern climate subjects us to many and great difficulties; though our country is the reverse of compact, extending over a great length with but little breadth, and with some unpromising intervals between; these drawbacks are not without corresponding advantages. (Hear, hear.) Notwithstanding our disadvantages, Sir, our progress during the last 15 or 20 years, has been a very satisfactory one, and such as we can very reasonably anticipate must follow in at least an equal degree during the future. During the last nine years the imports into Canada increased upwards of 81 per cent., while the exports of the country—a far better indication of her wealth—had increased 94 per cent. I am speaking now only in reference to old Canada proper. As respects Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, though their per centage of increase is not quite as great, it is yet gratifying and satisfactory. During the same period in Nova Scotia the imports increased 72 per cent. and the exports 20 per cent.; and in New Brunswick the increase of imports and exports was 38 per cent. and 25 per cent. respectively. As the new charges spread over five years, I will refer to the general increase of Canada quinquennially in the past. During the five years ending 1862 the imports into old Canada averaged \$36,551,000. In the five years ending 1867 they increased to an average of \$47,510,000. It is not, therefore, by any means an unreasonable estimate to suppose that the imports of the Dominion ought to increase at the rate of \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 a year. During the same time our exports had increased in even a greater ratio:—

In the five years ending 1867, they averaged.....	\$26,812,000
“ “ “ 1862, “	30,510,000
“ “ “ 1867, “	40,545,000

Now let me make one remark on this head with reference to a subject which has formed the groundwork of so much discussion—I mean the debts that have been contracted in order to aid the construction of railways. If you take the period when our railway system was completed, about the year 1860, the facilities which it gave to the trade of the country will be seen at once. About that time the value of products exported rose from \$23,000,000 to \$36,000,000; this increase arising, as I believe, in a considerable degree from the additional facilities given to our various productions to reach the markets of the world. (Hear.) Let me next say a few words by way of analysis of the character of our exports, so that an intelligent estimate may be formed of the growing wealth and capabilities of the country. I will take first our agricultural productions, the exports of which amounted, in 1850, to \$4,237,000 and in 1866–7 to no less than.....\$16,765,000