

England, and he endeavors to show us that the workingmen of England were better clothed, better fed, and better paid than the workingmen of Canada. I will read to you what he said with regard to that matter. He is referring now to a pamphlet on political economy by Mongredin, and he says :

"The poor people in England have better food and the purchasing power of their wages enables them to buy double the quantity of food they did ten years ago. I may be pardoned for reading the figures in regard to five articles. In 1871 they consumed per head of bacon 1 38 lb., and in 1877 8 lbs.; of wheat and flour they consumed 150 lbs. in 1871, and 203 lbs. in 1877; of raw sugar they consumed 41 lbs. in 1871, and 54 lbs. in 1877; of tea 3 92 lbs. in 1871, and 4½ lbs. in 1877; and of tobacco 1 36 lb. in 1871, and 1 49 lb. in 1877. Here we see that this coarse, good food—leaving out the article of tobacco—bacon, and wheat, and flour, and sugar, are consumed per head in double the quantities in England to-day that they were ten years ago. The wages of the English workingman enable him to buy better and more food for himself and his family than he could ten years ago. Can you say as much for Canada to-day? I say you cannot."

That was the statement of the hon. gentleman, and you will notice how unfair he is again. He takes the period from 1871 to 1877, in England, and he compares that with the Canada of to-day. If he wanted to make a fair and impartial statement of the condition of the workingmen of the two countries he ought to take the workingman of England of to-day and compare him with the workingman of Canada of to-day. But I do not think, looking at his list of articles, that the English workingman could suffer much from indigestion; at all events, I do not think that a pound and a-half of bacon in a year would overload his stomach to any great extent. I would be sorry to see the workingmen of Canada obliged to live on so small a quantity. But, to show the condition of the workingmen in England to-day, I will read you a cablegram, published in the press of this country, dated London, 17th January, 1885, which shows that there is not that great prosperity in England amongst the working classes that he would have us believe :

"A mass meeting of unemployed workingmen was held in front of the Royal Exchange this afternoon; 10,000 people were present. Henry George, Helen Taylor, William Saunders, and other well known Radicals were loudly cheered as they appeared."

You will note it was the hon. gentleman's friends who were the orators of the day on that occasion—Radicals. The hon. gentleman loves to be called a Radical, and his friends were to the front orating to the workingmen of London on that occasion :

"The speaking began at 3 o'clock. Radical pamphlets of the most advanced description met with immense sale. Some of these were headed in bold type with the words 'Blood, bullets and bayonets,' and presented an extraordinary appeal to the 'half starved, herring-gutted, poverty-stricken, parish-damned inhabitants of the Disunited Kingdom.' A resolution was passed declaring 'That the depression in trade and the chronic poverty and difficulty of finding work are intolerable evils which those who suffer them ought not to tamely endure.'"

There is the condition of the workingmen of England at the present time. The hon. member for Hants (Mr. Allison) read an extract from a newspaper this evening, showing that the industries in Windsor, in his county, were in a prosperous condition, and stating that there were few or no unemployed people there. I believe the same may be said with regard to the rest of the country. When you compare that with the statement I have just read from England, I think it is favorable to our country. But we know the workingmen of England are not employed to-day. We are sorry for it, but still we ought not to endeavor to make it appear that these workingmen cannot find anylum in Canada, or that if they come over here they will find it much worse than it is in their own country. We know that a large delegation of workingmen waited on Lord Granville, and stated that 30,000 men were out of employment in London alone, and asking how to find employment for them, that they might be able to support themselves and families. When we know this we should not conceal the facts; or, if we state them at all, we should state them in such a manner as to show that the

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workingmen of Canada are not in such a bad position as the workingmen of England. The hon. gentleman must know that the agricultural industry in England is very much depressed; he must know that free trade, that great nostrum which his friends would apply to this country, has not worked beneficially to the farmers of England. He stated that the farmers of this country were the bone and sinew of the Dominion. I agree with the hon. gentleman, and I believe that is the case with regard to every country. They are the producers of wealth, and on them, to a large extent, must depend the prosperity of the country. We know that the agricultural industry in England is very much depressed. I have here another cablegram, dated London, 12th December, 1884, which is published in the *Toronto Globe* :

"The Central Chamber of Commerce adopted a resolution asking for parliamentary enquiry into the cause of the agricultural depression, with a view to protection."

That is a singular resolution, in view of what we had the other evening, from the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Gillmor), who lauded the free trade policy adopted in England forty years ago. The Central Chamber of Commerce has a different idea of the matter :

"An amendment in favor of free trade was rejected by 28 to 9."

Then again, the hon. gentleman says that protection has reduced the value of real estate in Canada. Well, I find another telegram dated at London, 1st December, 1884 :

"An estate in Devonshire, one of the most beautiful and fertile counties in England, has been sold for £8,000, for which £18,000 was refused a few years ago."

This is the condition of commercial affairs in England, and if we were to have the same nostrum applied to our country which hon. gentlemen opposite say is working so well in England, I think it would be found by the farmers of Canada that real estate would depreciate in value, and that the country would be in a much worse condition than it is now. In fact, I am of opinion that were it not for protection at the present time the country would be in a very deplorable condition indeed. I believe it is the protection of Canadian industries that has tided Canada over the present crisis which has existed all over the world; and that the fact that our working people are able to deposit their earnings in savings banks, instead of sending them to the United States to buy foreign commodities, has been largely the means of keeping up the trade of the country and carrying Canada through the commercial crisis. Another statement has been made in this House, with regard to our shipping. The shipping interest is a very important one in this country. Those of us who come from the Maritime Provinces know the value of that great industry, and while we see it is declining we know that it is impossible to assist it in any way. The fact is, that iron vessels are superseding wooden vessels; steamships are superseding sailing vessels, and the carrying trade of the world will shortly be done by iron steamships. Now, England has the greatest mercantile marine in the world, and in the Statesman's Year Book for 1885, I find that the registered vessels belonging to the United Kingdom, in 1883, as compared with those in 1868, show, in the fifteen years, a decline of 7,382 in the number of sailing vessels, and of 1,364,285 tons; and in steam vessels an increase of 3,316 in number, and of 2,805,971 in tonnage. We must devise some means by which we can build iron steamers in this country, for wooden sailing vessels must go down before iron steamers. The hon. gentleman from Queen's, P.E.I. (Mr. Davies) also referred to the fact that the deposits in the savings banks in the country were no index of the state of the country; that, in fact, an accumulation of deposits in the savings banks would indicate a commercial depression in the country. He says, in regard to that :

"I tell hon. gentlemen, those of them that come from the Maritime Provinces, at any rate, that we know, every one of us knows, that it is a fact that these saving banks deposits are not the savings of the labor-