

ton and New York. To-day it is taxed by the McKinley Bill \$1.50 per ton. And it appears strange and inconsistent on the part of the hon. member for Albert to stand up in this House and defend the National Policy and condemn reciprocity, when the hon. gentleman knows that he cannot make a canvass of his county without seeing in open daylight a number of freestone quarries now closed down which were worked successfully a few years ago. I am not able to give the exact figures to-night, but if you consult the Trade Returns of twenty-four or twenty-five years ago you will find that we exported from New Brunswick to the United States at that time about \$85,000 worth of freestone. Do the Trade Returns show that this has been growing? Not a bit of it. They show that it has dwindled down to \$11,000 a year. Now, we know that twenty-four years ago Boston, as it stands to-day, was scarcely built. New York had an existence and a large population, but who will say that the best and finest edifices in the city of New York have not been erected during those twenty-four years. And yet during all those years we have been barred out by a tariff from sending our freestone to those cities. I do not hesitate to say that had this country enjoyed free trade during that time, in place of our export of freestone to the United States amounting to the paltry sum of \$11,000 there is not a shadow of doubt that it would have amounted to from half a million to a million of dollars. I took the trouble a few days ago to look over the census returns of the United States, in which I find that every quarry of any extent in the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia is referred to; and in those returns our freestone holds a place as high as any except one particular kind—I do not remember the kind. The freestone of our province has much to commend it. Hon. gentlemen can see a sample of it in the new departmental block in this city. Now, give us free trade with the United States and you will see a trade in freestone spring up with the ports of Boston and New York which will do more for the Province of New Brunswick than the National Policy could ever hope to do, if it should meet the highest possible expectations of its friends and advocates. But, Mr. Speaker, that is not all. Everybody knows that in the county of my hon. friend who sits at my right, the County of Charlotte, there are immense deposits of red granite. I may be told that there is red granite in the United States; but in quality, in quantity or in the size of the block which can be taken out of the quarry there is nothing in the United States that can compare with it. To-day, in spite of the McKinley Bill, some two or three hundred men are engaged in Charlotte County in the occupation of preparing red granite for the United States and the local market. The McKinley Bill has had the effect of stopping entirely the importation of the finished article into the United States. In St. John we have a factory to-day engaged in the polishing of that granite, the proprietor of which states that he will be obliged to move his works across the line to escape the duty. He has moved in part, and I believe he contemplates moving the balance at no distant date. There is no telling what the possibilities of the trade in that stone would be under free trade. Every one knows that that stone is admired the world over, and the New Brunswick article is equal to any

found in this continent or elsewhere. The only stone that compares with it is the Scotch granite. When I tell you that our granite has been shipped by rail all the way to Chicago I think that I have said sufficient to convince the members of this House that there is a market for it in the United States, provided that market were open to us. Now, with regard to coal, I know that our friends who support the Government are somewhat afraid of free trade in that article. They are afraid to face the competition in the American market. They are much more willing that the National Policy should be maintained, and that this country should be mulcted in the sum of \$600,000 annually for the purpose of transporting Nova Scotia coal to the markets of Ontario and Quebec, or as far west as they can. But I wish to state to-night that we have in the Province of New Brunswick immense undeveloped coal fields. I presume there is not an hon. gentleman from that province who will venture to rise in his place and depreciate its coal fields. If he chooses to do so, I am willing that he should do so. In the county which I represent we have to-day, according to the most authentic account, millions—yes, hundreds of millions—of tons of coal. I will not say that it is as good as the Pennsylvania coal, or even the Nova Scotia coal; but I will say that that coal is being produced at the mines at \$1 a ton, and is being hauled by team 14 miles and delivered to the railways at \$2.75 a ton, and that coal is being used successfully on two lines of railway in New Brunswick. I challenge anybody to show a coal in North America which has its equal for ordinary forge purposes. That coal is within four hours by express train of Bangor, Maine, and within a day of that point by freight train, from which it is to-day shut out by a duty of 75 cents per ton. It is true we have not the railways necessary to enable us properly to develop these mines, though a considerable quantity finds a local market. But give us free trade with the State of Maine, which has a climate like ours, which has extensive manufacturing facilities, and which is well supplied with railroads, and that coal, which lies alongside of that State, will find a large market there, and the duty of 75 cents per ton, if removed, would pay the freight. Even if it should go no further, that would be an immense benefit to the country and to the province from which I come. Now, with regard to the lumber business, I know something about it, and I am prepared to say to-night that under present conditions there is a great waste of lumber in our Province. I do not know whether the legal gentlemen who represent the City and County of St. John know anything about it; but I know that every manufacturer, every tanner, and every shipper of lumber in St. John, knows something about it. When the treaty of 1854 was abrogated bark was left on the free list; and what has since gone on in our province? Millions of hemlock trees have been felled and stripped of their bark, and the bark has been going to the American market to supply the American tanner, and because we have no market for hemlock lumber the trunk of the tree has been allowed to lie and rot in the woods. Give us free trade in hemlock lumber with Boston and I do not hesitate to say—and I know what I am talking about—that all this waste will be utilized. We have got the capital and the enterprise among our-