

doing much that is to their detriment. Let us see, Sir, what the Finance Minister does for the blacksmiths of Canada. In 1871 there were 15,694. Now there cannot be less than 20,000. They represent a population of 100,000 souls. What have you done for these people? You have taxed their tools 30 per cent.; you have taxed their steel 10 per cent.; you have taxed their iron  $17\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.; you have taxed their horse shoe nails 30 per cent.; you have taxed their coal 50c. per ton; you have taxed their bread and meat; everything they wear; you have taxed all they use to make their houses decent and their families comfortable. There is not one of them whose burdens will not be increased by at least fifty dollars a year. What have you done for them? Why, you have sent your agents to scour the United Kingdom and the Continent to find others to come out and settle down beside them, and compete with them to keep down their charges. Is this your policy of Canada for the Canadians? Is this the way you keep your promise to these 20,000 people, and the 80,000 women and children depending upon them? Why is this system of extortion and robbery to be practised upon them? Why, Sir, the reason is obvious. It is that some half-dozen speculators, greedy of gain, may produce a small quantity of very dear iron. They are the poor wretches to whom you have listened, and for whose welfare you have shown your tender regard. Do you think the mechanics will not understand you? You propose to help the farmer by taxing the farm produce of the United States, which is imported into this country. What is this but another act of your injustice—your folly! I hope, Sir, to be able to make plain to this House, and the country, that what you proposed may do much mischief, but can do no good. When you have a fair foreign trade well established, the productions from abroad of a similar kind sent into your market will always do much more good than harm. You prevent waste both in labour and carriage. In many cases, vessels can bring return cargoes of breadstuffs from Boston or New York, at but little cost to the consumer. Now you make it a choice between paying the tax or incurring the expense of a

long drive to some distant railway station. You propose not to recognise, but to waste labour and capital. The untaxed trade gave to the consumer a greater liberty of choice. They, from superior facilities of transit, lessen the cost to the consumer; they tend to open new markets for the surplus products of your country. Permit me to illustrate this principle by our trade as it has been. Last year we imported into Canada 7,387,477 bushels of corn from the United States, at 47c. a bushel. We used about 1,000,000 of bushels for purposes of distillation, upon which there was paid to the forwarder 6c. a bushel. We consumed for the purpose of stock-feeding 2,400,000 bushels, upon which the freights and charges were 8c. a bushel; and we shipped abroad 3,987,600 bushels, upon which the freights and profits were 38c. a bushel. The prices quoted as the value at the place of shipment in Canada, is 67c., and the ocean freight 18c. Now let me point out to you the whole effect of this transaction. You have, first, 1,000,000 bushels of corn upon which the profits and earnings amount to \$60,000; it is made into 3,500,000 gallons of whiskey, which you tax \$2,800,000. I do not speak of this business as contributing itself to the production of wealth. The farmers used 2,400,000 bushels, upon which they pay \$196,000 for freights and profits to the forwarders and dealers, and 3,987,600 bushels are sent abroad, upon which the earnings and profits amounted to \$1,515,288. In other words, for these 7,387,000 bushels of foreign corn, our dealers paid \$3,481,172, and received \$5,252,460—a difference of \$1,771,288. But this by no means represents the whole of the earnings and profits of the forwarder. If our farmers did not consume this corn they would consume some other kind of grain, the product of their farms, having a greater market value, but no greater value for the purpose of stock-breeding. Whether the corn sets free peas or barley, depends upon the market value of each. Whichever has the greatest market value for the time being will be most largely displaced, for the substitution of corn for either is a matter of profit. Last year we exported 2,420,000 bushels of peas for \$1,984,000.