

large profits said to have been made in 1879 and 1880, to counterbalance the small profits at the present time, and average the return which the investor had from this industry? I think that would be reasonable.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Only the men who made the money then won't divide with the others now.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Not at all. But, Mr. Speaker, I am now combatting the argument that may be raised by-and-by, and I am calling the attention of the House to the fact that when this question of sugar was under discussion, it was charged that our policy was to enrich the rich and to impoverish the poor; and now we are to hear that these gentlemen are engaged in an enterprise in which they lost money last year, not from the effect of the policy, but from the downward tendency of the price of sugar during the last twelve months. Hon. gentlemen say, hear, hear, to my statement; but let me call their attention to the fact that the argument that applies to sugar will apply to cotton and other industries. If, as hon. gentlemen said, these industries were yielding large profits then, and if they are making small profits now, if the inference from their statement is that we have induced men to engage in enterprises that have not paid, they should take into account the profits they had in the first years, and make an estimate by a comparison with the less profits that they have had since. That is my answer to that line of argument. With regard to sugar, the question is, has it cost the people any more than it did before? Never before in the history of the country was the price of sugar so low as it is to-day; and I will say, never before was sugar so good either. I