

that we are compelled in simple justice and by force of facts, to admit the wisdom of the administration in the measure then adopted. Not only have our farmers grown tobacco quite the equal of that used for plug smoking and chewing by the foreign leaf factories; not only was upwards of \$600,000 left in the hands of Canadian farmers last year that once went to American leaf markets, but the great masses of the people have been given just 50 per cent. more tobacco of equal quality for the same money than under the old tariff. Beyond this, a practically new industry has sprung into life; twenty-five new factories are now turning out Canadian tobacco products, and this influx of capital is ample evidence of the importance and wisdom of the measure. The tax, it is true, did for a time operate as a direct burden—

And therefore the hon. member for Bothwell went to sleep when it did operate as a direct burden.

—on the trade and public, but the evolution of a domestic tobacco has changed this, and it is now a tax on the classes that is handed over to the masses. The million dollars gained from the tax on foreign leaf now little more than offsets the loss of revenue involved in the low tax of only five cents per pound on Canadian tobacco."

There is the evidence of a high authority of the position in which the Canadian tobacco producer and the Canadian tobacco grower stands to-day. The industry is not in the position that its merits must be sounded by its friends. To-day it comes into the camp of the enemy; and after fighting for three long years in the face of opposition, nine-tenths of the trade comes out to-day and says: 'We were wrong and the government of Canada were right.' They are paying the farmers of Canada to-day \$600,000 that formerly went into the breeches' pockets of the tobacco producing classes of the United States of America. And yet these hon. gentlemen who have stood up in this House time and again, and made the rafters ring in pointing out the glorious future of Canada, in supporting the hothouse and spoon fed industries that never could and never will support themselves, are standing up in Canada to-day trying to blacken the character of a great Canadian industry. The hon. member for Bothwell endeavors to ruin a staple of his own county in order to secure a point against his political opponents. Now, I am not standing here as a protectionist. I have never stood as a protectionist, but I want to tell hon. gentlemen opposite after we have had eighteen long years of protection from them, that, at any time, any man who is an admirer of the principle of protection will point out that the results can be attained for any industry in Canada that have been attained for the tobacco industry of this country, I want it to go on record that so far as that industry is concerned, I am one of the strongest protectionists that could advocate its cause. What are the results? I find that the factories using Canadian tobacco exclusive of cigars for the year ending June 30, 1896, numbered ten and that the factories using foreign tobacco numbered 27. I find that to-day there are twenty-five Canadians and seventeen foreign. The factories using Canadian tobacco in three years increased 250 per cent., while the factories manufacturing foreign tobacco decreased from twenty-seven to seventeen. The cigar factories using Canadian tobacco in 1896 were two in number, to-day they are twelve in number, or an increase of 600 per cent., or, in other words, twenty-five new factories have been started and stimulated by this