

have already intimated, for this difference in taxation collected on United States and British goods by the fact that we import raw material more largely from the United States, as is shown by the following figures from the returns of last year :—

	From U. S.	From G. B.
Anthracite coal and coal dust	\$ 6,349,819	\$ 5,466
Tobacco manufactured for excise	1,616,201	546
Cotton wool	3,188,145	13,307
Hides	1,731,053	93,888
	<u>12,885,118</u>	<u>113,207</u>
Total free goods from United States	29,659,926	
do do Great Britain	11,279,136	
Excess of free goods from the United States		18,380,780
Total dutiable goods from United States ..	33,699,399	
do do Great Britain ..	31,869,267	

Items of this character fully account for the difference which must unavoidably exist in regard to the operation of the tariff.

The Speech from the Throne congratulates us on our comparative escape from the depression which has prevailed in almost every other country during the past year. I am inclined to attribute the immunity of Canada from this great and serious depression to causes, some of which I shall refer to—causes which hon. gentlemen will bear me out in saying are very potent influences in warding off such a depression as that which has been passing over the earth. One is our banking system—the adaptability of our system of banking to the wants and necessities of the country. One very powerful reason why our republican neighbours have suffered so severely is that they have not adjusted their banking system to the wants of their country. That system was an abnormal growth of the civil war, and the statesmen of the neighbouring republic have not been alive to the necessities of the time. Had they been, they would have more thoroughly adapted their banking system to the wants and necessities of their country. Another reason is found in our climate. Notwithstanding the grumbling we sometimes hear among our people about the rigorous climate of Canada, I believe, and have always felt, that our climate is calculated to develop a more vigorous and robust type of manhood than more southern latitudes. In no small degree our people are indebted to our rigorous climate for their

ability to face difficulties so bravely and successfully as they are doing. Although we sometimes cast jealous eyes on the neighbouring country and envy them the comparative mildness of their climate, I believe that the best part of the republic is found in the strip of country lying within one hundred miles to the south of our boundary, possessing a climate similar to ours, and that if it were not for that portion of their country, the United States would not be as great as it is to-day. It is in the northern portion of the republic that the greatest development is taking place. Although some hon. gentlemen may not agree with me, I think that the moderate character of our fiscal system has had something to do also with our ability to successfully stem the tide of depression prevailing around us. Although we are in the habit of speaking of our tariff as a very extreme one, we should bear in mind that it is very moderate as compared with that of the United States, and just as the banking system of Canada has proved itself to be adapted to the wants of the people, our fiscal system, though it may not be perfect, and may require, as I believe it does, very serious consideration and adjustment, has saved us from disaster—the test of experience has proved that the principles underlying it are adapted to the condition of our country. I feel like congratulating the Government on one very gratifying feature of our public affairs—that is, that having long ago grappled with great public enterprises, such as the Canadian Pacific Railway, and having accomplished what they had undertaken, thereby considerably increasing the debt of the country—having still liberally provided for such great works, there has not been any serious increase in the taxation of the country during the last ten years. I look upon that as a very gratifying circumstance. In expressing to the members of the Government my views on this point, I am pleased to be the medium of conveying to them the congratulations of a very much greater authority than I am—one whose good opinion, I know, they will very highly appreciate. Ten years ago, a very distinguished gentleman, still distinguished in the political affairs of Canada, Sir Richard Cartwright, declared himself in the words which I am now about to read to this House. I am quoting from a speech of his, in reply to the Budget Speech, in 1884 :—