

An hon. MEMBER—Is not the market regulated by the export?

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—Not always. The market may be regulated in a great measure by the demand and if we had not had any to export, the trade would not have grown so much in the last few years. If the demand in England had been greater than it was, and we had not the pork ready to send there, they would have got it somewhere else. I do not desire at all in my argument to deal with the abstract question of the principles of free trade or protection. I prefer to deal with the question as it presents itself to me and to every intelligent man in this country, that is to say, from a practical standpoint. I find that the imposition of a duty keeps out of the country that which we produce ourselves and enables us to export one hundred, yes, one thousand per cent more than we did before; that is all I care about so far as political economy is concerned. If our farmers can put the value of twenty million pounds of pork into their pockets in a year, that has more to do in convincing me, and I think it will have more to do in convincing the people of Canada generally, of the benefits which are derived from that policy, than if you preach the abstract theory of free trade until doomsday. I will give my hon. friend before I sit down a quotation from a gentleman who is an ardent free trader, who was in this country last year, upon that particular point. I might deal with these matters at greater length, but I do not think it necessary to do so. I have taken this course because of the remarks of my hon. friend, the leader of the Opposition, who tells us that we are taxed to death, that the effects of the policy have been to grind the poor unfortunate producers, who toil for their livelihood, down into the very ground, though I think these facts which I have cited will show him that the policy is not so bad after all when compared—and we can judge of its effects better by comparison than by any other mode—with the results of the period during which he had the honour of advising Her Majesty through her representatives in this country. Now, what were the taxes levied upon goods imported into this country during the five years, or rather the six years the Liberals were in power, because I consider the Liberal party responsible for the year after my hon. friend ceased to have the honour of being a member of

the Government of this country. What were the taxes as compared with a later period of five years, being from 1889 to 1893? In looking at these figures I think they will show that while we have placed a high protective duty upon many articles, there are equally as many articles which formerly were taxed under the rule of my hon. friend opposite, that are now on the free list. I wish to draw the attention of the House in this manner to the fact that those articles, which are upon the free list to-day, are articles which are not produced and cannot be produced in Canada. It is a part of the protective policy, as I understand it, that we should protect that, which we can produce, and that we should allow to come into Canada free, or to the greatest extent that may be possible, all those articles which we cannot produce ourselves. We have placed upon the free list sugar and tea; we have relieved the newspapers from their postage in sending them through the country and we have removed that tax which was considered to be such an odious tax, namely the stamp duties. I might go on for half an hour reciting these instances. Over 120 articles are on the free list to-day, placed there by the present government, which were taxable under my hon. friends opposite, and they are all articles which are not produced in Canada. My hon. friend will say, I have no doubt, that that was done for revenue purposes and I am quite willing to admit that. I reply we have provided a sufficient revenue and we have secured ever since we have been in power a surplus, instead of ruining the industries of the country and having a deficit every year, as was the case in the period during which my hon. friend was in power,—that is to say, except the first year.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The hon. gentleman is making a great mistake there. Your Government has had some pretty big deficits since 1878.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—The first year, when we had to assume the responsibilities of your administration, I admit that we had a deficit. I stand corrected, and I am very much obliged to the hon. member from Halifax, for calling my attention to the fact. I hope he will be equally candid in acknowledging that the deficit for 1879, the year after we took the reins of power, was the result of