

whether he had compiled, through the agency of two gentlemen, in order to show that our manufactures had increased. He did venture; but when once they were dissected and shown to be utterly fallacious, they were dropped by every hon. gentleman, and no one ever ventured to allude to them until the Finance Minister of to-day (Mr. McLelan), in a moment of dire necessity, alluded to them. Are we to accept those statistics, prepared at the cost of thousands of dollars to the country last year, and which were conclusively proved to be utterly unreliable, wholly false and misleading? Was it not pointed out last year with reference to these statistics, that actually they gave an increased product of woollen goods amounting to several million dollars, while the import of raw material was actually less than it was in 1878. When these things were pointed out, when it was shown, by the importation of the raw material, that it was impossible to have had the extra amount of goods manufactured which they alleged to have been made in the country, that was abandoned, and it remained abandoned until the Finance Minister saw fit again to introduce it here, and he based upon it a calculation that we had so many more workers in the country because of those fallacious statements which were previously made, and of which I believe even the compilers were ashamed, that we had some 35,000 more workers in consequence of this policy. The hon. gentleman expressed regret that he had not had time to obtain further statistics. Well, it is to be regretted, no doubt, but he had statistics from one manufactory; he fortified his statements by statistics supplied by one cotton company, the Canada Cotton Company. I admire the shrewdness of some manufacturers in this country. I have known the case of a sewing machine manufacturer who availed himself of the present Minister of the Interior two or three years ago to advertise his resources and to tell the country how successful his business was; and here we have the Canada Cotton Company

managing to secure the assistance of the Minister of Finance to state that the output is so much greater than it was, wonder if they have any stock to sell; wonder if they have any to dispose of, and whether the Finance Minister is lending his aid to this end. I might ask how it is that the hon. gentleman gave us a comparison only of the last six months of 1885, with the last six months of 1878. Why did he not give us the whole year? It may be all right, but it looks rather fishy. Surely it would have been just as easy to give us the comparison for the whole year as to give us the comparison for six months. Can it be possible that in the first six months the mill was shut down or was running with less hands? I do not say that it was. It may be all right. They may have done the increased business all through the year, but I think it would have struck the House as more fair and reasonable if we had had the comparison for the whole year instead of for the last six months only. And these are the proofs we have given to us that the mechanics of this country have been so greatly benefited by the operation of the tariff. Further, it is denied by the Finance Minister, and it is also denied by the hon. gentleman who preceded me, that the cost of living has been in any way enhanced by the operation of this tariff. We have been told time and again by these gentlemen that things are not dearer in Canada than they are in the neighboring Republic, that they cost no more here than they do across the border. That may be true. I am not in a position to say, or rather I will not assume to say, that it is not true, but I would like to ask the Minister of Customs one question. If he takes that position, if it be true that goods are as cheap in all lines in Canada as they are in the United States, how is it that some people are so silly as to go to all the expense, and risk, fine and imprisonment, in order to smuggle goods which can be obtained just as cheaply in the country itself? Do they smuggle for the mere fun of the thing? Do they risk incarceration in the goals of