

commercial greatness of England was waning, and that, while the exports were decreasing, the imports were increasing. In the figures before him he found that the gross exports of Great Britain in 1872 amounted to £311,588,000; the export trade of 1877, the last year for which we had returns, was £252,316,000 sterling, which showed a falling off of about £60,000,000. They had, however, to look to the value of the goods in the different periods. They knew that there had been a material falling off in the value of all goods in their market. In iron, for instance, there had been a reduction in the price of over one half, and coal, which, in 1872, sold at from 24s. to 30s. per ton, could be bought in 1877 for 4s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. per ton. In view of this reduction in value, they might safely take 25 per cent. from the imports of 1872 for shrinkage in value, which would bring the amount down to £233,941,000, as against £252,316,000, the value of the exports in 1877, leaving a balance in favour of England, at the present time, of £16,000,000 sterling. Whilst he admitted that England was suffering, he claimed that she was in a better condition, proportionately, than most other countries. She had shipped a greater bulk of goods in 1877 than in any previous year. The statement that England was getting tired of her Free-trade policy was without foundation. He remembered, a few years ago, that fears were entertained that Germany was going to deprive England of her small-ware trade. It was of very short duration, however, and was not sustained. Then Belgium was going to take away her iron trade, but that fear was found to be not well grounded. Next came the cry that France was going to control the sugar refining, but that also proved to be a fallacy. The statement that America was going to supersede England in the cotton trade had even been made on the floor of the House. He knew that, a few years since, a large quantity of American piece goods were sent into the English market. The American papers made a great cry about it, and this, acting as an advertisement, naturally attracted attention. He knew that a large quantity of these goods, after lying in Manchester and other parts of England for many years, were found

utterly unable to compete with goods of English manufacture, and they were actually shipped back to the United States. He could assure them that England was holding her own, and was in quite as good a condition as any other country in the world. The present complaint in England arose from stock farmers. They complained that Canada and the United States were taking the fresh meat trade out of their hands, which complaint found additional weight in view of the present tariff. We four millions of people, scattered over a vast extent of territory, could do but little to improve the trade of the world, and without the trade of the world improving, we could not improve. Employment must first be found for our ships, and a market abroad for our lumber, grain, fish and other exports, without which the trade of Canada would not improve. From the debate, he inferred that the party who had been most imposed upon during the elections was the farmers. The tendency of the present surplus population of our towns and cities was to go on farms and supply themselves with food to eat, at least. The policy of Canada was to encourage the immigration of a farming population to settle our great North-West, which we had been informed could produce wheat and cattle sufficient to supply the whole world. When that was done, and this supply came in addition to the present abundant supply, it would bring the prices of these commodities down to a point never before dreamt of. That was Canada's present policy towards our farming population. If we must have Protection, he would like to get it in small doses, so as only to nauseate, but not kill. He would cite a few figures given by the Finance Minister a few evenings ago. Carriages were imported annually into this country to the extent of \$56,000. A high duty might naturally be put on these, without sacrificing the labouring or farming population. We had all the wood and iron and raw material used in this manufacture, and could employ in that industry more people than in the sugar refinery and other things talked of. He would tolerate a duty of 100 per cent., or a heavy specific duty on carriages, that would keep the foreign article out of the