

\$2.50 a ton, but the bonus has been increased to \$3.00 a ton. The late government, I say it to their honour, imposed \$4 a ton to encourage the production of iron, but they gave nothing for the production if it was made out of iron ore in the United States. Notwithstanding the fact that a bounty of \$3 a ton is paid upon iron produced from ore from the United States as well as from iron ore produced in Canada, the whole result of the protectionist effort, which this government has not relieved in the slightest degree, but increased, by increasing the bonus, is that we are taxing the requirements of agricultural labour to the extent of \$10,000,000 a year for the benefit of the small amount of Canada production that I have spoken of to-day. What have we to pay for a binder in the North-west Territories? \$150. Let iron and iron manufactures come in free and let the Massey-Harris and other companies hunt their living in the markets abroad, which they are quite capable of doing and which they are doing more and more every day, make then hunt their living abroad, and then we will be able to buy a binder, a harrow and a plough of the same money.

Hon. Mr. OGILVIE—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—The hon. gentleman laughs.

Hon. Mr. OGILVIE—I do laugh; it is so absurd.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—The hon. gentleman is interested in maintaining that policy, but it is my duty to fight that the people amongst whom I live who labour and work and have to buy these machines shall not be taxed unduly, so that \$30,000,000 of the exports of the agriculturists of Canada shall not be absorbed in speculation and the exaction of money by the government which restricts their power to produce. The returns are here for the six months ending the 31st December last—January trade returns show the same condition 85 per cent increase in exports—imports only 7 per cent:

	1897.	1896.
Imports.....	\$ 62,701,000	\$ 58,102,000
Dutiable.....	34,350,000	31,989,000
Duty collected.....	10,341,000	9,683,000
Free goods.....	25,613,000	21,634,000
Coin and bullion.....	2,732,000	4,478,000

The exports during the same period were:

	1897.	1896.
Minerals.....	\$ 7,656,000	\$ 5,314,000
Fish.....	7,100,000	7,230,000
Animals and produce.....	32,467,000	25,950,000
Forest.....	19,767,000	18,762,000
Agricultural products.....	26,771,000	14,247,000
Manufactures.....	5,736,000	5,132,000
Miscellaneous.....	174,000	248,000
Total.....	\$ 99,673,000	76,886,000
Produce of Canada.....	89,779,000	69,911,000
Coin and bullion.....	987,000	3,212,000

I saw this in the public press, and I was so astounded at the fact here exhibited that I went and verified the figures at the Department of Trade and Commerce to be sure they were correct.

Hon. Mr. McCALLUM—What is the excess?

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—The difference between \$62,000,000 and \$99,000,000 in six months. A portion of these figures are foreign trade, but I figured the difference between the articles imported for consumption and the articles exported the produce of Canada, and the difference is \$30,000,000; taking the whole trade, it is \$37,000,000 more export than imports. Those are facts that I only present for the consideration of this hon. House, and I consider that it is ample justification of the warning I felt it necessary to give some six or seven years ago, when I saw how the interests of the people of our great North-west Territories which are essentially agricultural, were being pressed down by some cause or causes which we could not quite arrive at, and that, as hon. gentlemen know, although a Conservative I withdrew myself from the party and took an independent stand so that I might have a free hand in discussing this question which you have patiently listened to time and again on the floor of this chamber, and for which I have to thank you. I think I have brought such an array of facts before this hon. House that they will see that it is worth their while to open their minds and put on their thinking caps, and argue for themselves; it cannot be good for twenty years to have been importing more than we exported, and then to export \$30,000,000 more than we import. If it is good for England to import 40 per cent more than she exports and still be the wealthiest nation in the