

\$98,000,000; and that the imports from the United States into Great Britain, in 1865, were \$84,700,000, and that in 1876 those imports had swelled to the enormous sum of \$367,000,000. These statistics required a little scrutiny, and upon subjecting them to that scrutiny, they would find that the deductions were not what they would appear to be on the surface. They were like some statistics which had been offered by the hon. member for Centre Wellington (Mr. Orton), where a comparison was drawn between the prices of produce, before 1860, in gold, and the prices, subsequent to 1862, in depreciated currency, which was often worth only 40c. on the dollar, gold. Imports into the United States, to the value of \$122,000,000, in 1865 would not represent \$98,000,000 worth of goods in 1876. If the United States imported \$98,000,000 worth in 1876, they imported a larger amount of goods than in 1865, when the value was \$122,000,000. It must be borne in mind that, in the period from 1865 to 1876, there had been a great shrinkage of prices. Then, in regard to exports from the United States to Great Britain in 1865, when the hon. gentleman informed them that the United States exported only \$84,000,000 worth to Great Britain, they must remember that that was at the expiration of a great and exhausting civil war. Fire and sword had swept over the portion of that country from which their exports of raw cotton were derived, and they had very little breadstuffs to export, because they had just disbanded a million men who had mostly been engaged in raising breadstuffs before the war. The exports of breadstuffs had, therefore, sunk to a very low figure. In 1876, they exported \$793,000,000 worth of raw cotton, while in 1865 they exported almost nothing. In 1876, they exported an unusually large amount of breadstuffs, food and petroleum. In 1865, owing to the fact that they were just emerging from the civil war, they exported almost nothing of those articles. This showed how utterly unreliable those statistics were, if the aim were to prove what the hon. member for Cumberland never could prove, that Protection had benefitted the United States. He would give the

House some statistics as to the imports and exports of grain in this country, which would show whether or not the farmer needed Protection. But before referring to that question he might be permitted to say that the resolution offered to-night by the hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. MacKay) illustrated as forcibly as anything could illustrate, the utter absurdity of the Protection policy. Here was a resolution which standing upon its own naked merits was condemned by Protectionists upon the floor of this House, and which no Protectionist in this House, except those immediately interested in coal, would venture to justify; and yet this resolution, this policy standing upon its own naked merits, was no more absurd or unjustifiable than every single item of this Protectionist policy viewed one by one. The policy of a duty on manufactures was calculated to impose heavy burdens on the country for the benefit of a small class. The grain duty would tax the great people of this country for the benefit of a comparatively small class. He (Mr. Charlton) had been tempted at one time to introduce a motion similar to that of the hon. member for Cape Breton. There was a struggling industry in his riding. They raised corn there, and would not object to a duty of ten cents a bushel on corn; but they would not consent to it if it were coupled with a duty on other grains and on manufactures, because they would lose by such a duty, even if only two and a-half per cent. additional was levied on goods. Four years ago the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Tupper) who was now very much exercised as to the depression which existed as to the agricultural industry of the country, had entertained different opinions. Four years ago he spoke as follows:—

“The only interest which the Finance Minister pretended was suffering the slightest depression was the agricultural interest, and he (Mr. Tupper) would ask the great consuming population of this country whether they thought the agricultural interest was suffering? He thought they would give a decided response, without any hesitation, that the agricultural interest at this moment was enjoying a condition of prosperity second to none in the world.”