

ment sent him down there to do that work when that election was going on. If you will show me a single case in which the present government has been guilty of a practice of that kind, of taking an abominably corrupt character and putting him into an important official position and paying him \$10 a day and expenses, I will admit it, but I do not believe there is one single instance where it has been done. I said something with regard to our relation with the United States. A short time ago I was looking over the figures of the business that we had done in the last year with England and the business that we have done with our neighbours to the south. I find that last year we imported of dutiable goods from Great Britain \$45,099,527. and I find that we imported of free goods \$15,243,177, or a little over \$60,000,000 all together. Now, from the United States we imported dutiable goods, \$78,797,440; of free goods we imported \$73,634,186. The larger portion of the free goods is, no doubt, corn and coal. We of course under present conditions have to take a large percentage of our coal from the United States, and I presume that will continue for many years, and perhaps it is hard to tell how long. We have magnificent coal fields in Canada of which we are very proud, but unfortunately they are largely in the east or largely in the west, and in the central portion of this Dominion we are nearer to the coal fields of the United States than we are to our own, and over there they are blessed with a profuse supply of coal. They have coal mines in no less than 22 states all together. We have to take our supply of coal from there, and we cannot very well avoid it; therefore they need not thank us for it, because it is something that we have to get from them for our own convenience. Of course we cannot reduce that item, but there are many things that we can reduce. There are a great many manufactured goods which we are taking from the United States which we hope in the course of a few years we will produce ourselves, and we hope to protect those industries perhaps to a better extent than we have yet done in the articles they are now producing. I was coming from Chicago not very long ago, and in the Canadian Pacific Railway sleeping car I met a gentleman who was also travelling east from

Chicago. I got into conversation with him with regard to business. He said that he was in the boot and shoe business away down east some place near Boston. He said that their annual output of boots and shoes was about a million a year. During the last year they had manufactured their ordinary output, a million; that owing to the competition they were now meeting with in Chicago and in St. Louis, which were becoming very large centres for the manufacture of boots and shoes, his own firm had been left at the end of the season with about \$200,000 worth of boots and shoes on hand. They made up their minds that they must get rid of them in some way. He said that they had sent about \$50,000 worth to South America. They sent \$75,000 worth to Canada, and they sent an equal amount to England. They auctioned these consignments off in these different markets and thereby suffered a net loss of over 10 per cent upon the entire shipment, or a net loss of about \$20,000 on the \$200,000 worth of stock. But they sold over \$800,000 worth at home, and on them they had a clean profit of 10 per cent, which gave them \$80,000, and after deducting the \$20,000 loss they had \$60,000 of a net profit on a plant and means invested of \$500,000, or 12 per cent upon their capital. There was a good profit after all. I said to him, 'would it not be better for you to cut down your output to what you could sell at home rather than run the risk of having to sacrifice.' He said they were hoping for a larger market; they had to keep their factory running; and if the men were not employed all the time, if they were turned off for a month or two, they could not be picked up again; they would stray away to other institutions, and when they were wanted they could not be got, and in order to keep the factories running they had to manufacture this large quantity and do the best they could with the output. Would it be a wise thing for us to tolerate the principal boot and shoe manufacturers of the United States sending the fag end of their output into Canada, and slaughtering it on our market, desirable as it may be to give people cheap boots and shoes? Is it desirable that we should facilitate that kind of things? I do not think it is. I think it is better that we should endeavour to have those things manufactured among