

tions from these two countries we collect more on goods from England than on goods from the United States. I have shown that under their own tariff and management the difference was about the same as it is at the present time. I have another table here which should be placed before this country. We hear at the present time a good deal about tariff reform. We are told that, because a change of political parties has taken place in the United States, therefore we must change our whole policy—that they intend to reduce their duties. I hope they may. I hope they may go so far as to place Canada towards the United States in precisely the same position that Canada occupied for years and years to the United States. I should like them to reduce their tariff as low as ours was while the hon. gentlemen opposite were in power and we keep our own where it is, or nearly so, that we might get into the United States and flood their markets with the products of our industries as they used to flood ours. When that time arrives I shall not only be glad to see it but hail with delight any change that they may make. If any hon. gentlemen will take the trouble to read an article in the *Forum* for February written by Mr. Wells, who is certainly a good authority upon matters of this kind, he will learn that Mr. Wells points out that it is utterly impossible for the United States to reduce its tariff below 25 per cent, leaving aside such articles of luxury as liquors, tobaccos and articles of that kind. That is much higher than our own, taking out these articles. Ours averages not more than seventeen and a half per cent. Now, has not the policy of the Government during the last ten years been to reduce the taxation upon the people of this country whenever an opportunity presented itself and the revenues of the country would justify it? When we came into power in 1878 we found deficits of millions and millions year after year. These

deficits had to be made up by borrowing money from England, and we found that the debt was increasing just in proportion to the amount of each deficit, but just as soon as a change of policy took place the revenue began to rise, and just in proportion to the increase of revenue the people were relieved of such taxation as bore directly on the masses; so that tariff reform has been carried on from the very moment that what is termed the National Policy was adopted by this country. I will show you the extent to which that reduction has taken place, confining myself, mark you, only to a very few articles. When the Reform party came into power in 1874 we found that in order to raise money a great scheme was brought forward by the Finance Minister of that time—something I suppose which must have been astounding to men like Gladstone, Disraeli, and those who had dealt with financial problems in the old country. We know—those of us particularly who were in Parliament—that we first had a tariff brought down, of an incongruous character, which satisfied nobody. Then we had that magnificent stratagem of raising the whole tariff two and a half per cent, which was certainly one of the most remarkable evidences of statesmanship and financial ability ever presented to the country. In addition to that they placed a duty on tea, coffee and other articles from which it had been removed by the Government of Sir John Macdonald previous to going out of power. Now, if you take the duty on the articles of tea, coffee, and tin, together with bill stamps and newspaper postage, which have been removed by the present Government, and add to them what has been saved in the way of taxes upon coal and sugar you would be surprised at the amount of which the people of this country have been relieved since 1883 to 1892 inclusive. The figures are as follows:—