

in and selling them right at the steel works in the United States. But the United States did not stop there. They raised the duty a couple of years afterwards, in 1872 I think, to \$80 per ton, less 10 per cent, and in the following year took off the 10 per cent and made the duty on nails, rails, I-beams, T-pieces, and all other structural iron, a flat \$80 per ton. Now look at the United States; look at the steel works that have been built there. Can any country in the world beat them? They are supplying labour and dollars and cents to hundreds of thousands of people and they can compete with the world in the iron and steel industry. Just imagine, gentlemen, some of the figures that our bureaux here in Ottawa will produce! Take, for instance, the coal and the steel business. For the ten months ended January 31, 1921, we imported from the United States \$31,704,829 worth of anthracite coal, at the very time when some of our Nova Scotia mines were working two or three days a week. Of bituminous slack, such as would pass through a three-quarter-inch screen, we imported 2,372,984 tons, with a valuation of \$10,361,374 when our coal miners were idle, and when their children wanted shoes. Of bituminous "round and run of mine" we imported 9,179,502 tons with a valuation of \$51,527,043 and all at a time, I declare to-night, when to my own absolute knowledge men in our mining districts in Nova Scotia were walking the streets idle. And then you talk free trade.

An hon. MEMBER: What is the total?

Mr. BUTTS: The total is over \$51,000,000 for bituminous coal alone. Now let me appeal to my hon. friends angularly opposite. You are free traders—"in theory," as my hon. friend from Shelburne and Queen's said. Some of you gentlemen are perhaps older and some younger than I am. Let us recall a little bit of history. Go back, in your free trade theories, to the time of the Franco-Prussian war—about 1870, 1871 and 1872. You men were not producing wheat at that time. Western Canada was an undiscovered country roamed over only by the Indian, the buffalo—and the railway promoter. In those days we in the Maritime Provinces thought, or rather our ancestors did, that it was an awful thing to pay \$14 a barrel for flour from wheat that came from Odessa, down through the Dardanelles, through the Mediterranean and so to England. There that wheat was ground into

flour and then brought over in the old square-rigged windjammers which pounded at a sea all day and went around it in the evening. But, they were able to give us flour in those days at \$14 a barrel. With-in the last year I have paid \$16.75 for your flour and yet you are free traders and you do not like the profiteers. You talk of free coal. If we were to give it to you for nothing you would enjoy it better. Take off the trifling 54 cents a ton and that would not satisfy you; you would want the coal miner to go down into the bowels of the earth and dig it out for you free. Yet we must give you \$16 a barrel for your flour.

Let me refer for a minute or two to the iron and steel industry. We imported into this country \$4,886,000 worth of iron ore in the eight months ended on January 31, of this year. Now, as to agricultural implements. You are not satisfied with \$16 a barrel for your flour but you want free agricultural implements. Do you not see yourselves whose ox is being gored? Of boilers, engines, pumps and windmills we imported \$22,717,376 worth. We have got some of the windmills in the House I think. Of castings for farming implements we imported \$1,957,311 worth. Is it not a most peculiar thing that when you go through the tariff of this country and follow down the list of dutiable articles the farmers' implements are taxed about fifty per cent less than the products used by any other class in the Dominion or about seven and one-third per cent. We paid to the United States last year for steel and steel products alone \$199,916,000. To put it in round numbers I might call the amount \$200,000,000. We not only took that out of the factories—we not only took it out of the labouring man, out of his family, and out of his wages—but we sent the money over into a foreign country to build up another and a rival nation. Not only did we do that, but with an adverse rate of exchange, amounting practically to about twelve per cent, we paid that premium on the millions of dollars' worth of goods that we bought from the United States merely for the privilege of purchasing there.

Down in our country we have millions of dollars invested in coal mines and steel works, and when the Budget comes down I hope, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity of convincing this House of the necessity of protecting those industries. The right hon. leader of the Government has thrown