

that the Liberal Government which brought into power by one of the most overwhelming majorities that any party has ever had in this country, or relatively, perhaps, in almost any other country, found itself, at the end of its term in 1878 driven from power by one of the most unanimous verdicts that any Government in any country ever was subjected to. If I remember aright, the journals will show a majority of from eighty to ninety taking the place of the overwhelming majority with which the Liberal Government had been brought into power in the general election of 1874. I can give no better evidence to the House of the deplorable condition in which Canada was and the determination of the free and independent and intelligent electorate of this country to drive from power men who had shown themselves so utterly incapable of discharging their duty to the country. The hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) knows well that in 1879, as soon as Parliament could be convened, the Liberal-Conservative Government brought down the policy of protection and placed it upon the Statute-book of the country. And, Sir, our opponents did us the justice to say on the floor of the House that we had honourably and faithfully redeemed our promises, at all events. I was astounded when I heard the hon. member for South Oxford, who cannot have forgotten that deplorable condition of Canada during the five years during which he filled the position of Finance Minister, regret that he could not go back to the tariff in existence in 1878. Did he wish that once more the deplorable spectacle should be presented in this country that was presented during that period when he held office before? Great objections were raised to our policy. The first was, instead of increasing your revenue you will decrease it, because the goods will be manufactured in the country instead of being imported and paying a duty. I need not take the time to contradict that statement, because the facts prove that we had a buoyant revenue and were enabled to deal with the public service of this country in a manner that had never been hoped for by our predecessors under their low tariff. The next objection was: Oh, but the people will have to pay so enormously for this protection that you are going to give to the manufacturers. The answer was: The policy will bring capital into Canada, it will bring people into Canada, it will have the effect of producing competition among the manufacturers at a very early day; that will regulate itself, and we will enjoy the advantage of having Canadian work done on Canadian soil without the people having to pay any more, or even as much; because, as I need not tell you, Sir, who have been conversant with the facts, under the policy of making Canada a slaughter market for the United States, the moment an industry was crushed out, and they had the field to

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themselves, they put up the prices, consequently the people had to pay higher. I can give no better illustration than sugar. Under the Liberal policy sugar refining was closed down, the vast machinery was rusting and going to ruin, and labourers were standing idle. But as a result of such protection as was necessary to put those industries on their feet, everybody knows that in addition to the benefit of large expenditures of money among our people, they had sugar at a rate less than it had ever been before. Now, I do not intend to take up the time of the House with reference to that further than to give a brief and admirable résumé of what occurred for the benefit of hon. gentlemen who, like the Minister of Trade and Commerce, have forgotten what occurred so recently as 1895. For the benefit of that hon. gentleman and of others troubled with short memories, I will read a comparison laid upon the Table of this House by my hon. colleague the late Finance Minister, who took the period from 1874 to 1879, and compared it with the period from 1889 to 1894, the latter period of four years covering the greatest depression that Canada has experienced from 1879 down to the present time. Sir, the showing is replete with information at a crisis like the present, and it ought to sink deep into the minds and memories of the people of this country:

1874-79.

Exports fell.....	\$15,000,000
Imports (H.C.) fell.....	46,000,000
Decreased duty collected.....	1,500,000
Taxes increased by tariff.....	1,500,000
Percentage of duty increased.....	4 p.c.
Debt increased.....	40,000,000
Net interest on public debt increased.....	1,500,000
Net per capita interest increased....	\$1.34 to \$1.59
Credit, index per loan at 4 p.c.....	4.75
Net deficits.....	5,500,000
Average of failures.....	22,100,000
Increase in failures, liabilities.....	210 p.c.
Remission of taxes.....	Nil.
Savings decreased.....	4.5 p.c.

1889-94.

Exports rose.....	\$28,000,000
Imports (H.C.) rose.....	3,500,000
Decreased duty collected.....	4,400,000
Taxes decreased by tariff.....	6,000,000
Percentage of duty decreased.....	4.5 p.c.
Debt increased.....	8,650,000
Net interest of debt increased.....	100,000
Net per capita interest decreased....	\$1.86 to \$1.79
Credit, index per last loan at 3 p.c....	3.16
Net surplus.....	7,500,000
Average of failures.....	15,500,000
Decrease in failures, liabilities.....	2¼ p.c.
Remission of taxes: sugar, coal, glass.	18,000,000
Savings increased.....	40 p.c.

I give that to the House as an unanswerable evidence of what this country experienced under the two 5-year periods of the greatest depression that existed from 1874 down to the present time. Now, I can give you no better evidence of the increased credit of the country under Liberal-Conservative