

Taking the same period, we find that of the produce of the mine we exported in the preceding period \$3,731,069 in value, and in the last seven months this had expanded to \$4,163,388, an increase under that head of \$432,319. Last year was not an exceptionally good one for the fisherman, but the export for the seven months ending February, 1891, which was in value \$6,658,683, went up to \$7,042,695, an increase of \$384,012. Our export of the manufactures of the Dominion has also increased in the same period from \$3,492,876 to \$3,781,738; while the wants of the consumers in the Dominion are, as each succeeding year goes by, supplied to a much larger extent from the productions of our own people, thus giving employment to the labourer, the mechanic and the artisan. There has been also a notable increase in the export of such articles as are not the production of our own country, but which pass through the great natural highways or over the railway systems of the Dominion, giving employment to these railways in conveying such goods across the continent. The value of such exports has gone up from \$7,224,420 to \$11,274,996, an increase of \$4,050,576 under that head. While the whole of these sections show a large increase in the volume of our exports during the past seven months, as compared with the like period in the preceding year, in one important interest there has been a decrease—I refer to the export of the productions of the forest. While in the first period of comparison we exported the value of \$16,661,599 from productions of the forest, the export this year has fallen to \$13,904,689, a diminution of \$2,756,910; and of miscellaneous articles amounting to \$143,996 in the first period, we only exported \$106,293 in the last period. This falling off in the export of lumber is readily accounted for, as your honours will see, by the fluctuating market and low prices prevailing for a great part of the period, and also by high rates of freight which obtained at another period. Strikes, too, had a serious effect, as the people of Ottawa very well know, and disturbances in some foreign governments in South America also contributed to this result. Viewing, then, the whole volume of our export trade, which for the seven months of 1890-91 aggregate \$67,136,166, and comparing it with the seven months just now elapsed, we find it amounted in the latter period to \$77,381,211, a net increase of over ten million of

dollars. This indicates a very marked increase in the general prosperity of the Dominion—an increase which is not perhaps so apparent to the casual observer, but which must be evident to all who study carefully the facts and figures given in the trade returns. It may perhaps be objected that in the earlier periods of the year under review some productions of the past or preceding year would be included, but both periods are alike in that respect. Lest it may be supposed that I have unduly pressed my conclusion in that way, we will take the months of January, 1891, and January, 1892, and that will but add strength to my position, for during January last the exports of the Dominion were \$5,643,162, but in the January of 1891 they were only \$4,294,959, showing that the volume of our exports for the month of January last exceeded that of the January of the previous year by \$1,343,203. The only conclusions to be derived from a study of the export trade point to a season of increase, and increasing prosperity for the Dominion of Canada. Let me call your attention for a few moments to another phase of this subject. I refer to the imports for the seven months ending with January, 1891. We then imported goods to the value of \$65,793,800. In the last seven months our imports were \$63,899,655; so that while our exports have increased some 15 per cent. our imports have decreased nearly 3 per cent. This falling off in the value of the importations indicates that the goods required for consumption within our own borders are now to a large extent obtained from the factories which have been established under the provisions of the National Policy. These factories in turn give employment to the labourer and the artisan. They afford increasing markets for the productions of the farmer within our own borders. We import less quantities of manufactured goods and increasing quantities of raw material, and the wages of those employed in its manufacture goes to enrich and benefit the people of the Dominion itself. Again, if your honours will compare the amount of duties collected for the seven months ending January, 1891, you will find it is \$13,439,408, while for the last seven months it is \$10,896,771, showing a decrease of revenue of \$2,542,637; but we must bear in mind that the sugar duties alone in the first period of seven months ending 1st January, 1891, amounted to \$2,300,000, and that these have been dis-