

# CANADA'S TOBACCO INDUSTRY.

Mr. M. K. COWAN (Essex). At this hour, Mr. Speaker, and at this stage of the debate, it is not my intention for one moment to follow the various arguments which have been advanced by the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), who has just spoken. But there are one or two statements he made, to which I propose devoting some small attention before branching into the two points on which I purpose dwelling before I resume my seat. The hon. member for Bothwell labored for one solid hour to show—and apparently he argued it satisfactorily to his own mind—that farm produce in Canada to-day was cheaper than it was prior to 1896. He then went on to show that the articles which the farmer had to buy were dearer to-day than they were prior to 1896, and then he made the startling admission that the farmer was prosperous to day, and that the whole country was prosperous.

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There is another matter to which I intend to refer at some little length. I was extremely sorry and extremely surprised to hear come from the lips of the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) certain erroneous statements about the tobacco duties. I tell the hon. gentleman, that if he circulates that speech of his throughout the county of Bothwell, and if they take no more stock in the whole speech than they will in his statement about tobacco, then the speech will find a repository in the back yard before they get beyond that one single assertion. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) said that this government had put over \$1,000,000 duty on the poor man's tobacco, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) now nods his head in assent. I had hoped that by this time he would have recanted, and would have been sorry for making a statement which is so absolutely far from the facts. No one knows better than the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy), because he grows tobacco himself, that you can go into the market of the town of Wallacburg, or the village of Dresden, where he lives, and you can buy for 66½ cents to-day the same amount of tobacco that you would have to pay \$1 for before 1897. No one knows better than the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), that Havana cigars and fancy Virginia smoking tobacco have increased in price—that is, cigars costing from eight to twelve cents, or that you buy over the counter at two for a quarter of a dollar. Fancy Virginia smoking tobacco, costing from \$1.50 to \$2 per pound, and cigarettes, have increased in price, I will admit. But, Sir, when it comes down to the tobacco that is consumed by a large number of the members of this House, when it comes down to the tobacco that is consumed by the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere), when it comes down to the tobacco which is consumed by the masses of Canada to-day, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) knows full well that the price of that tobacco has been reduced by 50 per cent. Before I take my seat I shall prove to the satisfac-