

manufacturers in our country. Did he visit any of the timber mills? Are not they entitled to Protection and consideration? I should think so. The hon. member behind him will think so, having regard to the various articles affected that are current in that business.

AN HON. GENTLEMAN: Give any of the articles that are raised.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH: I could not stop to enumerate them; the average duty is 20 per cent.; whereas, before, it was 12½ only.

AN HON. MEMBER: I have asked the hon. gentleman to give the articles used by lumbermen that have been increased.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH: Cottons, woollens, pork, iron, and everything in fact. I say that the lumbering interest is an important interest, and the labouring population engaged in lumbering should not be ignored. Why did he not take counsel with the lumbering community, and the farmer of the country? Why should we look to any particular interest? Did he go to the rolling mills, at St. John, when he visited that place? The hon. member for King's knew where it was. There is one fact I would like to refer to, that is, that according to the speeches of hon. members opposite, and particularly the speech of the hon. the Minister of Finance, we are to come to the conclusion that we had no manufactures in this country before; that they have all sprung up through the agency of the National Policy. Now, I would ask whether, five years ago, we had not more men engaged in manufacturing than we have now? Why, according to his own statement, they were rolling up surpluses in those times; depression and scarcity of labour was unknown; the country was happy and prosperous under their rule. Now, Sir, what kind of a fiscal policy had they then? Just the same as we had during our five years' Administration, except that we increased the duties by 2½ per cent. How then does the hon. gentleman show that we cannot find prosperity except by the adoption of this new fiscal policy of theirs? They say they prospered before, under the old Tariff of 15 per cent., which we raised to 17½ per cent. I could read, Sir, a speech made, in 1874, by the hon. member for Cumberland, in which he said the farmers

of this country were as prosperous as any in the world, and that under a Revenue Tariff. He seemed on the question of the tea interest to think this policy had been doing a great deal for the shipping interest. I say it is doing nothing. It is impossible to foster the direct importation from China and Japan; and the policy operates injuriously. The small tradesmen of the country ought to have a chance as well as the large traders in Montreal and Toronto. The people of New Brunswick have little trade with Ontario. Why not allow them then to buy in Boston or New York? Now, Sir, the sugar business, what about that? The hon. the Minister of Finance said a good deal of sugar is imported by the River St. Lawrence. How many vessel loads come up to Montreal? If he has got information I would be very much pleased to receive it, because I think there is a very small quantity. But suppose it does, what benefit is that to our ship-owners—we have no monopoly. Foreign vessels can enter into the trade as well as our own. The effect of the legislation on the sugar duties is to transfer the trade from one Canadian city to another. We have a return showing the importation of sugar into Canada during the last six months from which I find that the amount received in Ontario, in the last six months of 1879, was 32,617,000lb., and for the corresponding six months of 1880, ending January, 9,685,000lb. Sugar is not imported into Ontario to the same extent. Then coming to Quebec, we see the result of the duties there; the importation for the last six months of 1879 were 19,000,000lb., and for the six months of this year, ending January, 46,000,000lb. In Nova Scotia, it has increased from 5,000,000lb. last year to 14,000,000lb. this year; and in New Brunswick there was a decrease from 3,000,000lb. last year to 2,200,000lb. this year. So the effect has been to change the current of the trade from one Province to the other, and that is all. With regard to our shipping interest, which I think I know something about, I believe it does not derive any benefit from the National Policy on the article of sugar. Whether sugar is refined in this Dominion or the United States is of little consequence I believe it was much better

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH.