

raw material; those men engaged in the manufacture of cotton and woollen goods, sugar refining, tanneries—all these industries put together, only employ in New Brunswick 3,500 hands, while there are 18,000 engaged in preparing the raw material of the country, in cutting up saw-logs, sawing them into lumber, building boats, &c. Now, I would ask you candidly to apply your intelligence to this broad fact: What protection is there necessary or needful to the people of New Brunswick or Canada in order to enable them to manufacture their lumber and sell it for a good price? What protection is there needed to do that? Will not free trade—that is, will not the remission of all duty on everything that enters into the industries of the people engaged in saw-mills, grist-mills, tanneries and industries of that kind conduce to a more economical working up of our own material? My hon. friend here on my left smiles at that position, but I say there is not a shadow of doubt about it that taxation as levied under our protective policy is taxation on the industry and labour of the people of Canada and its prosperity, and if you lift taxation off the labour and industry of the people you release them from a bond binding them down and preventing them increasing their numbers and consequently their exports, and you would enable them to work under more economical conditions at home, and in consequence of that when they come to purchase they can purchase more largely abroad what they require for their comfort and use. It cannot be denied by any single member of this House that the manufacturers and the people engaged in those industries that are returned in this bulletin, No. 8, no matter what class of manufactory it may be, must be benefited by removing the protective taxation from those industries and placing it elsewhere. Now, that is what I call free trade. I am frequently met with the query, would you destroy all the capital invested in our manufactures? I can say this, with the utmost confidence, that if any manufacturer is afraid of the competition he would be subjected to under such a policy, there will be plenty of capital forthcoming to purchase out his interest at a handsome advance, removing the burden of taxation from the shoulders of the labourer and from the shoulders of the industries of the country, and placing it upon shoulders that can better afford to

pay it, putting the labouring population in a position to create better results for the country generally. That is my interpretation of the benefit of free trade. My interpretation of protection is: when the revenue is so placed that it protects industries and enables the employers to charge for their products a much higher price than they could obtain in open competition, reverse the conditions and British capital and American capital will flow in to take advantage of the economic condition of Canada to manufacture for the world's market. The consequence of our present policy is to hold down the country and prevent the successful extension of its industries and manufactures, and when we see in the province of New Brunswick that there are 18,000 operatives working to produce and prepare raw material of the province for export to the outside world, or for consumption at home, while only 3,500 are engaged in the manufacture of raw material brought from abroad. I say those 18,000 men that are engaged in preparing our own raw material for market are held down for the assumed benefit to 3,500 operatives, brought into existence by artificial legislation, who will, however, themselves be benefited by a changed condition of taxation. It is a knowledge of that fact that has caused me to take up the question so warmly in the interests of the people of Canada, that greater prosperity, greater growth and development in the magnificent resources at our disposal shall take place in the next decade than in the past, because all the figures brought forward to prove the prosperity of the people and the growth of the country do not show that the National Policy has effected the purposes for which it was intended. I do not allow for one moment that the National Policy was imposed merely to create the wealth of individuals in the country, but rather to benefit the country at large, to keep its population at home and to bring people from abroad and increase the national progress of Canada, but I say that the figures presented to us by these returns do not show that that has been the case. So far as the question of our importations is concerned, I would just refer again to the purchasing power of exports as compared with the purchasing power of these importations in the earlier period of our history. As I pointed out yesterday, in 1871, '72 and '73 the impor-