

he said because one-tenth of the tobacco consumed in Canada is made from Canadian leaf, while in point of fact, over 45 per cent was manufactured from it in January last. The hon. gentleman actually did not know the difference, although he spoke with all the assurance of a man who could leak wisdom on the subject. Earlier in this debate, and earlier in the night I gave the hon. member for Bothwell the figures of the consumption of Canadian tobacco in Canada from 1896 down. I also gave him the percentage that Canadian tobacco bore to the total consumption, and therefore I need not now weary the House by going into that any farther. But, I want to tell the hon. gentleman that the Empire Tobacco Company distributed \$300,000 last year in wages to their workmen, that they spent \$150,000 in increasing their plant, to say nothing about the twenty-four other factories. Does any hon. gentleman think that these gentlemen, tobacco experts, would invest such large sums of money in the industries for the manufacture of Canadian tobacco were they not thoroughly satisfied that it was a product that would strike the palate of the Canadian consumer, and that it was equal in texture, aroma, flavour and general character to the foreign article. Now, the crop of 1898 was put on the market in 1899. I have already referred to the fact that the growers lacked the facilities for curing it, but they went to work in 1898, and got the facilities, and the result is that the tobacco crop grown last year is only being purchased now, and will not go to the consumer until next year. When it does go to the consumer it will be found that the crop is 50 per cent finer than that grown in 1898. As has been stated by Mr. Gregory, these men have come to a point in Canada that it took the United States years and years to reach. Some hon. gentlemen may ask in view of the fact that under the excise regulations which imposed twenty-five cents per pound excise on foreign leaf and five cents per pound excise on Canadian leaf, giving a protection of twenty cents a pound upon the home grown article, or an advantage of twenty cents per pound, under the regime of hon. gentlemen opposite, how it was that Canadian tobacco only amounted to a little over 5 per cent of the total consumption. Hon. gentlemen opposite sat on the treasury benches for eighteen long years, they saw the tobacco industry, which, at one time, was an industry in this country, but which, by the absolute stupidity of hon. gentlemen opposite languished from year to year, decline by different steps and grades until it got down simply to an infinitesimal part of the tobacco consumed in Canada. At one time they made a man take out a license to grow it. Then there was practically only one man who could buy it and you may depend upon it that the buyer was not Grit. Where there were acres of tobacco in Essex and

Mr. COWAN.

Kent years ago, it got down to practically none, until the business management of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) and his colleagues took hold of it, and placed it upon its feet. I will tell you what the explanation is. Prior to 1897 you could not mix Canadian and foreign tobacco in Canada. I could go to Turkey and get the Turkish or Egyptian tobacco; I could go to Cuba and get the Cuban tobacco; I could go to Virginia and buy the lemon wrapper produced in that state; I could go to Kentucky and buy the Burley tobacco, and I could bring them to Canada and mix them and blend them to suit myself, and put any wrapper on them I saw fit; but if I were a producer or a manufacturer of Canadian tobacco, the government of which the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) was a bright and shining light—in supporting them, in the back concessions in the western counties—that government said: You can put a lemon Virginia wrapper around Kentucky Burley, but you cannot cover up Canadian Burley with it. Let me tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) that every one of those plugs of smoking tobacco I have produced has a wrapper grown in the State of Virginia, and which cannot be grown in any other State of the American Union. That lemon-coloured wrapper is not grown elsewhere. The result of the policy of the Conservative government was, that the Canadian manufacturer producing Canadian Burley tobacco had to put a Burley wrapper around it. What was the result? We have not yet succeeded in growing a decent wrapper in Canada, but we can grow as good a wrapper as they grow in New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania or Kentucky. But, in the United States they do not have to put an Ohio wrapper around Ohio tobacco. The result of the policy of the Conservative government was that we had to put our tobacco on the market just as it was, and its appearance damned it in the sight of every man. This government had business ability enough to grapple with the situation, and when the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) goes back to his county, and asks in the different school-houses what this Liberal government has done, let him put his hands in his pants pocket, produce his tobacco, and every plug of Canadian Burley he finds there with a Virginia wrapper around it will demonstrate to him something done by this government, and something which has meant thousands and thousands of dollars to the people of this country. In 1897, when these tobacco duties were imposed, this Liberal government passed a regulation stating that any factory could take out a license, to blend tobacco. They could have it all Canadian, if they wanted to; they could have it all foreign tobacco, if they wanted to; or they could mix it, and this government showed its wisdom by going a step further and providing as a safeguard, until such time