

about it if he were at liberty to speak? The Finance Minister dwelt upon the benefit his tariff has been to the farmers. I will touch that later on, but in the mean time there is an industry which concerns the farmers as well as the manufacturers, to which I wish to refer. I mean the

Flour Industry,

which comes next in importance, and in the amount of capital it employs and in its output, to the saw milling industry. We used to hear moaning and wailing because American flour was consumed by Canadians, and the Government asked that a duty should be put on the American flour in order that our people should be compelled to buy Canadian flour made out of Canadian wheat. Have we accomplished that? In 1878 we imported of American flour 314,520 barrels. Then the Government put on their tariff of 50 cents a barrel to prohibit that coming in, and, notwithstanding that in 1885 we imported 540,108 barrels of American flour, or 225,588 barrels more than in 1878. Was that to the benefit of the farmers? Did that benefit the Canadian miller? Then they were going to benefit the coal industry. What has been the result of their efforts in that direction, in which they claim a great deal of credit? Let us take, first, the importations of

Coal and Coke,

and what do we find? In 1885, we imported 1,953,948 tons; in 1878, we imported 896,446 tons, making an increased import of coal in 1885 over 1878 of 1,057,502 tons; or, in other words, we have an increased import of 118 per cent. on coal in 1885 over 1878. Yet hon. gentlemen designed their tariff to shut out this importation altogether, in order that our people would have to get their coal from the Maritime Provinces. What has been the consequence with reference to the export trade? The increased importation would not matter so much, if our

mines in the east were enabled, in a peculiar way, through the operation of the tariff, to export their output; but in 1885 we find that they exported 479,000 tons, and, in 1878, they exported 351,227 tons. Thus, we had an increased export of coal in 1885 over 1878 of 127,773 tons to set off against the increased import of 1,057,502 tons. In other words, our imports increased 118 per cent., while our exports increased but 41 per cent.; and thus it is they have benefitted our coal industry. Now, although this duty on flour and this duty on coal have failed to accomplish what hon. gentleman said they would, they have not failed in one respect. They have given the Government an amount of revenue, for there was paid, by way of taxes on coal, in 1885, \$1,072,161, and by way of duty on flour, in 1885, \$378,054; or a total duty on flour and coal amounting to \$1,450,215. Now, if these gentlemen, with their \$4,900,000 deficit, place the tariff as it was placed by the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. Richard Cartwright). If their flour and coal duties were wiped out, we would have, instead of a deficit of \$5,000,000 for 1886, a deficit of \$6,300,000; or, even after having taxed everything they can lay their hands on, they have added this country with a deficit greater by double any that was ever known in the darkest administration of that hon. gentleman whom they so much revile for departmental mismanagement, as they are pleased to term it.

Mr. HESSON. What about duty on tea and coffee?

Mr. PATERSON, My hon. friend is moaning again. To pass from that matter hastily, I come next to notice in a few moments the proposed

Tariff Changes.

There is something that cannot fail to strike one with reference to these changes. It seems to me that the Finance Minister—I wish he were present here, that