

ing of ships and boats, in order to get on the ocean and carry on the trade of fishing or trading with foreign ports. I find, on reference to the census returns, notwithstanding that knowledge and ability and the needs of the people of New Brunswick, that the population engaged in the building of those boats and those ships has decreased from 1,084 in 1881, to 500 in 1891, and those men, possibly, who have been engaged and who were able to build those ships for the benefit of the country in order to increase the carrying power and the maritime strength of the country, have been drawn from those industries to the manufacture of cotton, which is not one of those natural industries that our people are bred and reared to, not one which they understand and have the same capacity for.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH—What proportion has that to the decrease in tonnage from '74 to '78?

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—That does not come under the question here, but so far as the decrease in tonnage is concerned, I may tell the hon. gentleman that the figures in connection with tonnage since 1868, are not to the credit of the country. There has been an actual decrease in registered tonnage of Canadian ships in the past twenty-four years. That the tonnage of vessels built or owned by Canadians has been gradually decreasing under the protective policy in 1878. Such tonnage amounted to 1,333,000 tons, in 1891, to 1,005,000 tons, gradually decreasing year by year. Then, again, I take the tanneries. The manufacture of leather is one of the natural industries of the country. We have hemlock tanbark, the natural facilities and the capacity for making good leather. The province of New Brunswick is situated upon the ocean. It can trade with the South American countries where the raw hides are drawn from. There is a market for leather to any extent. There is an open market in Great Britain for leather. It is a market free to the competition of the world, and England purchases annually, according to the British Board of Trade returns, \$35,000,000 worth of leather, wholly or partially prepared. There is New Brunswick on the ocean, on the direct highway to enable her to transport that leather from her manufacturers to the open market in Great Britain; but what is actually

the result of the case in the last ten years, so far as the industry in question is concerned? The people engaged in the tanneries of New Brunswick have been reduced from 355 to 249 employees. Now, that is not a very creditable showing for the commercial prosperity or the manufacturing power and ability of the people of New Brunswick, when the natural facilities are at their disposal to increase their employment in the tanneries, treble or tenfold, instead of presenting to the country an actual reduction, it is not their fault, it is the fault of the commercial policy which holds them down. Then take the saw-mills of the province; I find a reduction in the number of men engaged in the saw-mills from 7,167 to 6,821. So far as the manufacture of boots and shoes is concerned, I do not know what factories there are in New Brunswick, but the number of establishments is set down at 337 and the employees at 809. I think they must be mostly shoemakers' shops. I see by the figures of the census of 1881, that the number of employees engaged in those trades was 911, so that in the ordinary shoemakers' shops there has been absolutely a decrease in the number of the employees working at those trades. Now, when those figures are presented to us in that way, when it is shown that the natural industries of Canada, the products which the people of this country are capable of preparing for export, that there is a decrease in the power of the people to export and a decrease in the number of operatives at work in those industries, no one can put forward statistics and claim for New Brunswick that there is the prosperity in that province that we are led to expect. I would apply another test to the same position and that is. I have divided the number of operatives in the province of New Brunswick into three heads. I have taken those men who are engaged in preparing our own raw material for the market and those who prepare raw material imported for manufacturers—all the natural industries, boat-building, ship-building, fish curing and canning, bakeries and confectioneries, &c., natural to the country—and I find that there are 18,000 operatives in New Brunswick engaged in preparing the raw material of the province for the market at home as well as for export to the markets abroad. 18,000 operatives are engaged in the manufacture of our own raw material, and only 3,572 are engaged in the manufacture of imported