

ever since the duty was put upon corn. Before that we imported a great deal of corn. Farmers used to raise very few pease then. They would raise barley, because it was more profitable, and would save the difference between the prices of the two articles, while corn would feed more per pound than barley and cost only half the price. This year it so happens that barley is remarkably low in price. I understand that that has arisen, not so much from any great excess in the quantity of barley produced in Canada and in the United States, but to a large extent from the use of corn, glucose, rice and sugar in making beer, corn being so very cheap, and containing so much saccharine matter, and the discoveries they have made in manufacturing beer from those articles have enabled them to get along by using less barley than formerly. It will be remembered by many hon. gentlemen that years ago whiskey was made almost exclusively from wheat or rye in Canada. Some time since it was discovered in the United States that whiskey could be made at a great deal lower price. That discovery was brought over into Canada, and ever since then corn has been used to a large extent, and is found to be a great deal cheaper than rye, which was formerly purchased for that purpose, so that whatever rye is now produced has to be sold at a price to correspond with corn. These circumstances have caused continual changes in prices in the markets of the United States, with reference to barley, an article that we a few years ago shipped to that country in considerable quantities, and we must now be placed in a position to meet this change of circumstances. We must be able to produce other articles to take the place of the exports that we now have. Barley, as all farmers well know, has not realized this year prices that would pay for its production. Anything less than 60 cents a bushel a farmer does not care to pay attention to. Barley has sold as low as 35 cents a bushel this season, and those farmers who can hold it prefer feeding it to their stock to selling it at that price. Others who depend on their barley crop to pay rent, interest, mortgages or any other debts have to take 40 cents to 50 cents a bushel for it. The probabilities are that in another year the crop will be short, and the price will then go

up, but it is a matter entirely in the future. I simply desire to impress upon the House the necessity of yielding so much to the demand of the agricultural community in the first instance, but really a demand of the whole country, to enable us to increase our exports to foreign countries, and then we shall be able to some extent to meet the extraordinary drain that is necessarily placed upon us, owing to our great enterprise and the great expense we have incurred in building railways, and making local improvements and running ourselves into debt. It was stated the other day by a member of the House of Commons that the total indebtedness of Canada, to foreign countries, including our Dominion debts, our provincial debts, our municipal debts, and the debts that we owe where money is required to go out of the country to meet interest on stock held in banks and loan companies, and money brought out or sent out to private individuals to loan upon farms—that the interest upon all those debts combined would amount to \$25,000,000 a year. We cannot be absolutely positive as to the amount, because it is difficult to get at them all, but I have no doubt that sum is a fair approximation. The statement was made by the hon. member for Cardwell, a supporter of the Government, and, I have no doubt, he has taken the pains to verify the truth of his statement before making it to the House. Assuming then that it is approximately correct, we have a large sum of money to make up every year. The interest upon the debts of the Dominion alone, if I remember right, is something in the neighborhood of \$10,000,000, and when we add to that the interest upon municipal and provincial debts we know that it swells it up to a much larger sum, so that \$24,000,000 or \$25,000,000 is not much more than we have to meet. Now what do our exports come from? Taking lumber and timber, the products of the forest, they amount annually to a little over \$23,000,000. Taking the manufactures which we have encouraged, and I do not object to giving reasonable encouragement to manufactures, only we must not overdo it, so as to make it react injuriously upon other interests—they have not grown perceptibly for the last fifteen or sixteen years. They were as large, I think, in 1874 as they are to-day, notwithstanding the amount of protection they have had. The exports of manufactures amount only to a little