

objects. If we can do so with advantage to ourselves and without detriment to the revenue, it should be an object with us to endeavor to satisfy parties with whom we have such large commercial transactions. (Hear.) It is, too, undesirable that the trade of the Province should be confined to two markets. At present there are practically but two markets to which our produce goes, and from which we can obtain supplies. One of these is Great Britain; the other, the United States. Now the cause of the suffering in this country at the present time, has arisen from one of those markets being closed to our trade. How is it, on the other hand, that under circumstances hitherto unparalleled in regard to the want of the staple article of cotton, Great Britain has maintained her position during the past winter? It is this, that although she is dependent on the United States for an article important to her manufacturers, the various branches of her industry are so diversified, and her connexion with other countries is so intimate, that when one channel of trade is closed another opens and she is not depressed to any thing like the extent we ourselves are. We are suffering from the loss of a market in the United States, and we ought to try and open other markets to our trade. We ought to endeavour to seek such commercial relations with other countries, as will not place our merchants entirely at the mercy of one or two countries. And this recalls to my mind the liberal treatment we have received from the Government of France. The French Government have, with the utmost liberality, admitted all Canadian produce almost free into their markets, and they have also extended to our shipping the same advantages which they have conferred on that of England. They have given to Canada boons such as they have not given to any other colony, and such also as are only enjoyed by Great Britain herself. A year ago we reduced to a certain extent the duties on French goods. We were immediately met by liberal corresponding action on the part of France, which met us more than half way. (Hear, hear.) The French market being thus opened to us, we ought to do all in our power to encourage trade with that country. Such trade can only be carried on in one way—by shipping our produce to that country and receiving its goods in return. If you hope to send timber and grain, you must expect to get back French wines and other French products in their stead; and therefore, when imposing our duties, we ought to be particularly cautious that we do nothing we can avoid to militate against that trade. I am satisfied that the adoption of the measures for the reduction of our duties which I shall have the honor to sub-