

tainty and perpetuate that condition of things, thus inflicting further loss and injury upon the people.

The hon. Minister of Finance read to the House a part of the platform adopted at the Liberal convention of 1893. One of the statements contained in that platform was that the existing tariff—that is the tariff under the National Policy—discriminated against Great Britain. That statement I challenge as untrue. It was reiterated by the hon. member for South Oxford to-day. But I brand that statement as untrue and as one of the greatest wrongs that the Liberal party of this country has ever inflicted upon Canada. Why, from the day I took the position of High Commissioner to England, I was met all over Great Britain with the question: Why does Canada discriminate against Great Britain? I found it was only necessary to state the facts to entirely disabuse the minds of all intelligent men of the idea that there was any discrimination in the Canadian tariff against Great Britain. I was invited to deliver an address upon Canada at the great seaport, the city of Newcastle, shortly before I left to come to this country at the end of 1895. And, having delivered that lecture, I was invited by the Board of Trade of Newcastle to deliver an address to that board. On that occasion I met the first men in Newcastle, men of the highest character and standing in regard to financial and commercial matters, men of the greatest experience, intelligence and enterprise. The room was crowded to the doors and I had the pleasure of addressing them for an hour and a half; and at the conclusion of my address at a banquet they took the opportunity of expressing the great gratification they felt, that the impression that they had formed that Canada discriminated against the mother country was not well founded in fact. And on every occasion, wherever I went—and I have been in the habit of attending meetings of Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade all over the United Kingdom—when the facts as established by the statistics of the country were put before the people. I never met an intelligent Englishman who was not satisfied that the charge that this country discriminated against the mother country was not well founded. As this is a matter of some importance, I gave the substance of my lecture to the press, and I will read a few clauses of it in order to give the House the facts and figures upon which I undertook to make good the statement I then made. I may say that the charge of discrimination against England is embodied in an article in the Toronto "Globe" of 2nd of November, 1896, as follows:—

In 1896 we imported from Great Britain \$32,979,742. We imported from the United States, \$58,574,024. The duty collected on the \$32,979,000 of the imports from Great Britain amounted to

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\$7,358,514, and on the \$58,574,000 of imports from the United States it was \$7,767,992. British goods, therefore, paid 22·3 per cent, and American goods 13·3 per cent, or a difference of American goods to the extent of 9 per cent.

Now, Sir, this is a grave indictment, on the face of it a very plausible one and one which would naturally lead parties who do not take the trouble to investigate the question to feel that Canada did discriminate against Great Britain. Yet, when examined, the whole of these fallacies melt into thin air. Did gentlemen opposite, when they were in power from 1874 to 1879, discriminate against England? The public records show that in 1873 the imports from Great Britain were \$68,523,000, and in 1879, after these gentlemen had been in power for five years, they had fallen to \$30,943,000, a decrease of \$37,580,000 in the imports from Great Britain in five years. Did that look like a British policy? On the other hand, in 1873, when they came into power the imports from the United States were \$47,730,000, and in 1879 they had only decreased \$4,110,000, and stood at \$43,620,000. You had a decrease in imports from Great Britain under your free trade system in your imports of \$37,580,000, and you had an apparent decrease of \$4,110,000 in the imports from the United States. And even that decrease was fallacious for the reason that it was mainly in grain in transit, in bond which, since 1878 has been shown separately. Therefore while there was a decrease of 37½ millions from Great Britain there was no decrease from the United States; yet that was under a free trade system. Now, the imports from Great Britain for consumption in 1896 were \$2,036,024 over those of 1879. Notwithstanding the enormous industries that had been created all over Canada, notwithstanding that the National Policy, which was intended to do the work for the Canadian people, with Canadian hands on Canadian soil, had been carried out, there was not only no decrease but an increase during the period that the National Policy was in force. Now, the answer to this is given in a few words. I will read a statement given to the press which is contained in an address I made before the Board of Trade at Newcastle:

Generally speaking, it may be stated that Canada imports from Great Britain most of her staple manufactures, and that they have increased since the higher duties have been in force, or at any rate, have maintained their volume, notwithstanding the great development of similar industries in the Dominion. Further, that while Canadian imports from the United States of raw materials and other articles which Great Britain does not export, or in the export of which she cannot compete with an adjacent country like the United States, have largely increased, United States manufactures have improved to a comparatively small extent, and the trade does not appear to be expanding. For instance, the Canadian free list contains the following articles which Great Britain does not export to Canada to any extent, for