

among other reasons he shows the difference in rates of freights, which is certainly enormous. He gives the rates from Chicago to New York as follows:—

AVERAGE FREIGHT OF WHEAT FROM  
CHICAGO TO NEW YORK.

| Year.                   | By Lake<br>and Channel. | By Lake<br>and Rail. | By All Rail. |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1868....                | 24.54                   | 29.                  | 42.6         |
| 1873....                | 19.19                   | 26.9                 | 33.2         |
| 1879....                | 11.60                   | 13.3                 | 17.3         |
| 1880                    | 12.27                   | 15.7                 | 19.7         |
| 1881                    | 8.19                    | 10.4                 | 14.4         |
| 1882                    | 7.89                    | 10.9                 | 14.6         |
| 1883                    | 8.40                    | 11.5                 | 16.5         |
| 1884<br>Jan. to Sept. } | 6.60                    | 9.75                 | 13.          |

The charges as to shipping are equally remarkable. Freights for wheat sent from New York and San Francisco to England fell 50 per cent. between October, 1883, and October, 1884. They have also fallen heavily between India and the United Kingdom. Since 1880, it would be safe to say that freights have fallen generally from 30 to 40 per cent. The following rates were given last year from Calcutta to the United Kingdom:

|                      |        |            |        |       |
|----------------------|--------|------------|--------|-------|
|                      | 1881.  | 1882.      | 1883.  | 1884. |
| Via the Cape, Wheat, | 62s 6d | 30s 25s    | 20s 6d |       |
| Via the Canal “      | 71s 3d | 35s 26s 3d | 17s 6d |       |

HON. MR. KAULBACH—That shows the depression of trade in England.

HON. MR. McCLELAN—It shows the remarkable reduction in the cost of transportation in the great productions of the world which are required for consumption, and it is no wonder, therefore, with such largely diminished freight rates, and such reduction in prices in the beginning, that many of our staple commodities should run so exceedingly low. Hon. gentlemen may think it very absurd of me to allude to such a reason as that, because the people ought to understand it; yet hon. gentlemen will seriously persist in uttering such speeches, which are only calculated, if they are meant for anything, to mislead the people and teach them that under a high protective tariff the prices of sugar, cotton, and agricultural implements are lower. There is a tendency of that kind going on continually in the world, owing largely to the introduction of improved machinery and new appliances by which commodities can be grown, and produced,

and transported more cheaply than in previous years; hence it is natural enough that they should be purchased at lower rates.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Competition in trade has done that.

HON. MR. McCLELAN—I have given the opinions of some of our public men on this question, and I would now suggest an adjournment of the debate before going into the other branch of the subject.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL said he would prefer that the debate should be continued after six o'clock.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—I understood the hon. member to say that one effect of the depression in New Brunswick, is that the attendance of school children in the public schools has diminished, and I remarked in a low tone of voice, that it was not so in the province of Quebec; to which the hon gentleman replied by quoting from a copy of the *Montreal Witness*, in which the rates for municipal taxation are shown to be lower than the rates set forth in the census, in which there was no taxation. I am going to prove that I am right in saying that such was not the case in the province of Quebec. I hold in my hand a copy of the report of the Inspector of Public Schools for the province of Quebec, for the year 1883-84.

HON. MR. McCLELAN—I did not refer to the province of Quebec in my remark as to school returns. I referred to the *Witness*, and to the Deputy Registrar's report.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—The hon. gentleman showed me a paper, and I took it as an answer by him to my remark. Here is what the report of the Inspector says. I will take a comparison from the year 1881:—

|         | Pupils on<br>the School Rolls. | Average<br>Attendance | Increase of<br>School Sec's |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1881-82 | 236,699                        | 180,463               | 501                         |
| 1882-83 | 242,723                        | 185,892               | 424                         |
| 1883-84 | 250,000                        | 192,852               | 110                         |

showing an increase every year. The same remark applies to the number of schools; the last increase was 110, there-