

Now, it will be observed that, under the old tariff, from 1895 to 1897, the imports from Great Britain decreased. Under the new tariff, they began to increase and ran up to over \$44,000,000. And, although last year, they dropped a little, they are far and away above any figures that could be quoted of any time under the old tariff. But, my hon. friends opposite may not attach much importance to the imports. Then, perhaps, they will consider the exports. I will give first the exports of goods produced in Canada:

**Exports of Home Produce to Great Britain.**

1895.....	\$57,903,534
1896.....	62,717,941
1897.....	69,533,852
1898.....	93,065,019
1899.....	85,113,681
1900.....	96,562,875
1901.....	92,857,325

But, if we consider both home and foreign products, the figures of our exports are as follows:

**Exports to Great Britain, Home and Foreign Products.**

1895.....	\$ 61,856,990
1896.....	66,689,253
1897.....	77,227,502
1898 ..	104,998,818
1899.....	99,086,981
1900.....	107,735,968
1901.....	105,328,956

So, thus far, our trade with Great Britain has enormously increased since the adoption of the preferential tariff.

**Mr. SPROULE.** Can the hon. gentleman (Hon. Mr. Fleiding) give us the figures with regard to the United States?

**The MINISTER OF FINANCE.** I believe my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) asked that exact question at this exact moment last year. I should have remembered that and brought the figures.

**Mr. SPROULE.** Let me say that I never asked the question in this House before. It may be that the late Mr. Wallace, then representing West York asked it.

**The MINISTER OF FINANCE.** And my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) is that gentleman's worthy successor in several respects. I have not the figures here. But we know that the imports from the United States increased. We know that the trade with the whole world has increased.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

**The MINISTER OF FINANCE.** We cannot help it, Sir, trade in all directions is increasing under the rule of this beneficent government.

**Mr. MACLEAN.** We got that information from the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton).

**The MINISTER OF FINANCE.** Then, why does my hon. friend want it again? What are we wasting time for?

**Mr. MACLEAN.** We hope that the Minister of Finance has profited by it.

**The MINISTER OF FINANCE.** The hon. member for North Norfolk brought forward the fact prominently. I regret that it has not made a deeper impression on hon. gentlemen opposite. This question of how far the imports from Great Britain have been affected by our preferential tariff has been more or less, a matter of debate. I remember that, in the last session of the British parliament, that distinguished statesman the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, in the debate on the sugar duties, during which reference was made to the Canadian preference, said, in terms very gratifying to all Canadians, that, while they appreciated very much the step that Canada had taken, the value was to be looked for, more in the good feeling that had been manifested than in the material results to trade.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

**The MINISTER OF FINANCE.** My hon. friends opposite say: Hear, hear. I suppose they think likewise, and if they think likewise, what becomes of the statements that have been made for some time now that the increased imports under the preferential tariff are destroying some of the factories of Canada? I am afraid my hon. friends are trying to blow hot and cold on that matter. I cannot find out whether they want that trade to increase or not. At one moment they complain the trade is not increasing under our preference, you will find a column of statistics in the Conservative papers designed to prove that there has been no increase at all, and the next thing we are told is that the preference is ruining the factories of Canada. However, coming back to my friend, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, I felt at the time that the statement, while made in good faith and made in terms which will be pleasing to all Canadians, was based upon a misconception of the situation. In the first place, the actual increase of trade as shown by the figures I have given, is very considerable. Then there is another point to which I fear Sir Michael's attention had not been drawn. In view of the severe competition which is now going on between the United States and other manufacturing nations, if, with the preference of one-third in favour of Great Britain, we have only been able to increase British imports to a small amount, what would have happened to the trade if there had been no preference at all? Sir, I have no doubt in the world that but for the British preference, that advance in the imports from Great Britain would not have existed at all, there would not have been any increase in the imports from Great Britain. There is not much doubt but that, without the change this government made in the tariff, the imports from Great Britain would have continued to drop as they did from the year 1895 down to 1897.