

and a certain degree of prosperity. But in the period from 1860 to 1864, the average was £42,800,000. In 1865 to 1869 this had grown to £47,000,000. From 1870 to 1874, the total was £58,900,000, and from 1875 to 1879, to £72,300,000. And so it advances, until in the five years from 1885 to 1889, it reached nine figures, being £101,219,378. In 1892, the savings of Great Britain deposited in the savings banks of that country amounted to £118,238,528, and in 1893 they had reached the splendid total of £122,841,248. This was a larger amount per head by a large percentage than the people of Canada have under the National Policy. The importation per head of the people of the mother country, showing the amount that they consume of the goods supplied from the rest of the world, is the largest of any people under the sun. In 1892 her imports per head amounted to \$56, her exports to \$29, and her total trade was \$93 per head; while in Canada our total trade per head is about \$49; showing that the mother country, with all the difficulties she has to contend with, without the unlimited natural resources we enjoy, trading over all portions of the world, has a trade amounting to \$93 per head, against the trade of the people of Canada of \$49.27 per head.

The total trade of the United Kingdom with foreign countries increased steadily from seventy-nine millions in 1854, to one hundred and seventy-six millions in 1890; to the British possessions it increased from thirty-seven millions in 1854 to eighty-seven millions in 1890; to the United States, it increased from nineteen millions to thirty-two millions during the same period. Her total export trade in manufactured products increased from one hundred and sixteen millions to two hundred and thirty-six and a half millions; showing that the mother country is sound and healthy to the core, that the principles laid down by her statesmen at the time that she was brought so low through an adherence to a false economical doctrine, have placed her where she ought to be, and where she will be so long as she upholds this policy, the foremost of the civilized nations of the globe.

Sir, I think I have disposed of the claims that are made against the policy of the mother country, and now I will call the attention of the House to some peculiarities of our own country. Every step taken by hon. gentlemen opposite has been prefaced by extraordinary promises, wild prophecies, and predictions of extraordinary success if their policy was carried into effect. Perhaps in no particular has the country been more thoroughly misled than in the promises made in regard to the iron and steel duties. And here I will venture to make an assertion of an opinion which has pressed itself for the last eight or ten years upon my own mind. I do not know to what extent it is shared by others,

Mr. FLINT.

but it has seemed to me, from a careful study of the speeches by which this policy was heralded, and by which it has been supported, that the prime object of the Conservative party has never been protection, but it was to obtain an enormous revenue with which to carry on some ulterior purpose, and that they have adopted protection merely as a catchword, as a means of holding certain classes under their influence, or within their power. I think that the whole indications of the trade and financial returns point in this direction; but under the plea and guise of protection, they have really been grasping at the revenues of the people in order to further some selfish, personal or political ends. Otherwise they would have carried out some of their promises, they would have reduced the enormous taxation from time to time when they found that their predictions were not realized. But the appetite grew by what it fed on, and the men behind the throne, the men who were nursing the infant industries, never believed they had sufficient money from the people, and they never will let go their hold until they are compelled to do so by an outraged and indignant people.

The iron duties were increased enormously over the ordinary protective duties in 1884, followed up by a still further increase in 1887. In introducing the policy of increasing the iron duties, Sir Charles Tupper, in one of his speeches, made these remarks, which are only a sample of his addresses upon the same line during the discussions on this subject:

The moment anthracite coal is free, we shall have blast furnaces at Coubourg, Weller's Bay and Kingston. * * * I believe that at no distant day you will have in the province of British Columbia an iron industry built up which will compare favourably with any other industry in this country. * * * Now, Sir, by the adoption of this policy, you will give permanent employment to an army of men—numbering, at least, 20,000 men, increasing our population from 80 to 100,000 souls, and affording them the means of supporting them in comfort and prosperity.

Now, this was certainly an extravagant prediction, but at any rate, based upon it the legislature gave them the power they asked, and from time to time increased the bounty given for the production of and the import duties on iron and steel. The result, although it has to a certain extent increased the production of pig iron, has been enormously oppressive to the industrial and productive classes of this country.

I find that the total amount of dutiable iron and steel goods imported into Canada between 1874 and 1877, both inclusive, was \$35,283,256; while the free goods of the same class imported in those years, was \$25,733,836; making a total of \$61,017,092, upon which a duty was paid of \$4,191,668. The average of dutiable iron and steel imports per annum was \$8,820,814, and of free imports of the same class, \$6,433,459, the total being \$15,254,423, the duty averaging \$1,047,917 per annum. The rate the people of this country