

to that industry; for bad as they may be in Quebec, we find that ship-building in the United States has almost ceased to give employment. The other alleged evidences of decline, it will be found, are without foundation. He (Mr. Magill) was fully convinced, that when the census shall have been ascertained, as it will be next year, a great increase in our population will be found to have taken place. The Trade and Navigation returns are a true index, and furnish a complete refutation to what has been said in relation to a languishing commerce. On reference to these returns we find that the exportation in 1865 was \$42,481,151 while the exportation for the fiscal year ending 30th June last, was \$60,474,781 being an increase of almost 45 per cent. Imports for 1865 were \$44,620,469 and for the year ending 30th June 1869, \$70,415,165, showing an increase of almost 60 per cent. In fact, Mr. Speaker, there is no country enjoying a greater measure of prosperity, or no country where the people enjoy more freedom or contentment, and all the efforts made by some honourable gentlemen to make the people think they are wretched, when they know they are happy, will prove entirely futile. The member for Hochelaga has referred to Mr. Lowe in the British House of Commons as entertaining views similar to his own, but in England, as in this country, there are some to be found who entertain views inimical to the interests of the Empire. But if the hon. gentleman had referred to the views as lately expressed by Lord Carnarvon in his speech in the House of Lords, he would have drawn our attention to sentiments with which the great body of the people of this country concur. Entertaining those views he should feel it his duty to vote against the resolutions of the member for Shefford.

**Mr. Chamberlin** said there was a general feeling in favour of freer trade relations with the United States and other countries. But the farmers of the country, when they fully understood this Zollverein scheme, could not give it their support. Bad as that scheme was in itself, it would be infinitely worse just now when duties were so high in the United States. They could not, the member for Shefford admitted, cut down their tariff, and we, therefore, would have to raise our own. These attempts to agitate the country would have a tendency to injure us, because the avowed reason for making them was that our industries were languishing, and we are in a very unprosperous state. But these statements were not borne out by our trade returns. Taking an average of five years during the Treaty, and of two years since, our imports from our neighbours had fallen from \$18,000,000 per annum to \$16,000,-

tuent des indices sûrs et réfutent entièrement tous les propos concernant le marasme commercial. Elles montrent, en effet, que les exportations ont été de \$42,481,151 en 1865 et de \$60,474,781 pour l'année fiscale se terminant le 30 juin dernier, soit une augmentation de presque 40%. Les importations accusent une hausse de presque 60%, passant de \$44,620,469 en 1865 à \$70,415,165 au 30 juin 1869. En fait, M. l'Orateur, il n'y a pas de pays qui jouisse d'une si grande prospérité, où les gens soient plus libres et plus heureux, et tous les efforts déployés par certains honorables députés pour faire croire à la population qu'elle est misérable quand elle sait qu'elle ne l'est pas, seront tout à fait vains. Le député d'Hochelaga a prétendu que les vues de M. Lowe de la Chambre des Communes de la Grande-Bretagne sont semblables aux siennes, mais en Angleterre comme ici, on peut sûrement trouver des personnes dont les idées sont contraires aux intérêts de l'Empire. Mais si l'honorable député avait rapporté les opinions exprimées récemment par lord Carnarvon, dans son discours à la Chambre des Lords, il aurait alors porté à notre attention des sentiments qui animent la grande majorité de la population canadienne. C'est dans cet état d'esprit que j'estime de mon devoir de voter contre les résolutions du député de Shefford.

**M. Chamberlin**—L'opinion publique, dans son ensemble, est en faveur de relations commerciales plus libres avec les États-Unis et d'autres pays. Mais les cultivateurs du Canada, après avoir bien compris ce qu'est le Zollverein, ne peuvent pas l'appuyer. Déjà mauvais en soi, ce projet serait désastreux en ce moment où les droits américains sont si élevés. Le député de Shefford admet que les États-Unis ne peuvent pas abaisser leur tarif et que nous devons donc hausser le nôtre. Ces tentatives d'agitation à travers le pays nous nuiront. On les justifie en déclarant que nos industries dépérissent et que nous sommes pauvres. Mais les statistiques du commerce vont à l'encontre de ces déclarations. Si on considère les cinq années pendant lesquelles le Traité de Réciprocité a été en vigueur et des deux années subséquentes, on constate que nos importations des États-Unis ont baissé de \$18,000,000 à \$16,000,-

[Mr. Magill—M. Magill.]