

to-day between England and Canada we must attribute it to some other cause. I can easily understand how the trade with Germany has increased with England; it is simply on account of the order in council which was recommended by the Minister of Customs, and is now in existence. If goods manufactured in a foreign country be sent to England and undergo a finishing process which is about 25 per cent—I am not absolutely certain as to the amount—

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I think that is the proportion. That is my recollection of it.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I thought that was it, but I did not wish to be too positive—then they are admitted as English goods under the preferential tariff. Now, take buttons—that is a small matter—they will send them to England—just the bone itself, and perhaps the holes are bored in England. Then they are relieved of the differential duty of thirty-three and a third per cent by sending them to England rather than by finishing them in Germany. That applies to scores of things, so that in fact the preference through the means of this order in council is absolutely nullified in its operation. Then how are we treated by Germany? The expression used by people on the stump, is 'See what advantages have accrued to us from the fact of our having this preferential trade.' There is a gentleman, now a member of this House—I do not see him present—who was interviewed in Kansas, and he there told them of the magnificent effects of the preferential trade in opening the market of England to us. Let me ask any hon. gentleman present, who knows anything about the tariff and trade with England, have we one single benefit in the English market to-day that we have not had for thirty or forty years, since free trade was established in that country? Not a single one. If we have a surplus of grain or a surplus of manufactures we can go into England to-day on the same terms precisely as we did twenty-five years ago, so that there is not the slightest gain to us in that respect, while we have given them a preference of 33½ per cent and under that 33½ per cent the trade of the country has fallen with England and increased with the United States, with 33½ against her on the aggregate trade.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.

Hon. Mr. WOOD (Hamilton)—The hon. gentleman wants to take all and give nothing. The English people have been receiving our goods for thirty years free of taxation and you still want to keep a high taxation against them.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I should like to ask the hon. gentleman if anything has fallen from my lips which justified that remark?

Hon. Mr. WOOD (Hamilton)—I think so.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I said nothing about retaliation. I have been showing from the beginning the effect of the preferential tariff as it affected the trade of Great Britain. I have not expressed an opinion upon that point yet. If the hon. gentleman wants an opinion I have no objection to giving it. I have no opinions of any kind or character that I am ashamed to give expression to, and when the time comes for dealing with the question, I will deal with it just as frankly as I am dealing with this, but it would be just as well if the hon. gentleman, in considering these matters, would not try to put language into my mouth that I did not utter. I could give him reasons why I think the preferential tariff has resulted in the manner which I have indicated, but I will not take the time at present.

I wish to refer now to the enormous expenditure of the country. I may, however, remark en passant, that my hon. friend from Hamilton is one of the radical, free trade-protectionists that we have in this country, and I congratulate him on the latter part, however, much I may disagree with him on the former. He is one of the ardent out and out protectionists of the old Tory style. There is no question about that. I had the pleasure of sitting in the House of Commons with that hon. gentleman when he made one of the most elaborate statements in favour of protection, that perhaps any man ever made in that House, and I assisted him in getting it upon record, and he has a very good knowledge of the results. Not one word have they said about the expenses of the country. I thought the hon. gentleman to whom I referred a moment ago might be in the Chamber, but I do not see him here. He made a pledge in the Commons, when he was there, in which he stated that he was