

about an average season's cut. This represents a cash value of \$7,500,000 to this section of Canada. The report continues :

"Now that the Presidential contest is over in the States, we can look to a good trade for next season, and with cheap labor, flour and pork, next year bids fair to be a most profitable one for our lumber kings."

That statement is corroborated by a lengthy article in the organ of hon. gentlemen opposite in this city. It is dated 20th March. I will read merely the heading: "Work in the Woods. A Hopeful Lumbering Outlook for Next Season's Trade." I have here a statement of the position of the lumber that is now piled here, the remains of last year's cut. The source of my information is such that I take the responsibility of saying that I am prepared to challenge any satisfactory contradiction from any quarter in any important particular. The statement is this :

"Of the 495,000,000 feet cut last season between Ottawa and Grenville all is sold and shipped except about 190,000,000 feet remaining in mill yards and docks, of which about 150,000,000 has been sold since close of navigation and is now held in second hand. The balance, about 40,000,000 principally coarse box, suited only for local purposes and Montreal market; and within the past week most, if not all, mill culls about Ottawa mills have been sold to Montreal buyers at about same price as last year, and the buyers proceeded to mills below this, as far as Grenville, with the view of securing from them any amount of this quality they can obtain. As to next year's cut a much larger percentage is sold in advance than is usual at this season of the year, and at higher prices, (from \$2 to \$5 per thousand feet) over last year's prices, particularly in the upper grades. The advance on these will much more than compensate for any reduction, if any there be, on the coarse box. As to pine deals for Quebec, every deal now on hand in this section, and at all other points heard from, and the entire cut during season of 1873, are now sold in advance, at prices varying from \$2 to \$10, 1st, 2nd and 3rds per hundred standard, over prices obtained last season, which were considerably more than those obtained in 1883.

"Estimate of deal to be cut on the Ottawa during 1885, is as follows : Booth, Ottawa, 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 feet; Eddy, Hull, 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 feet; Gilmour & Co., Chelsea, 18,000,000 to 20,000,000 feet; Edwards & Co., Rockland, 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 feet; Jas. McLaren, Buckingham, 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 feet; Pattee & Perley, Ottawa, 15,000,000 to 16,000,000 feet; Hamilton Bros., Hawkesbury, 15,000,000 to 18,000,000—say 115,000,000 feet board measure."

An important sale of timber limits, which affords an index to the condition of the lumber trade, occurred on Saturday at the Russell House, in this city, the Hall limits on the Gatineau river realising \$247,000, one-third cash, balance at eight and twelve months. The hon. gentleman to whom I have referred has been egregiously mistaken, and I think, as a public man, he should be more careful in making statements that may seriously affect an important industry. With the further indulgence of the House, I desire to bring under its attention the position of the two political parties in regard to the tariff, so far as actual taxes on the food supplies of the people are concerned. Hon. gentlemen opposite on all occasions, inside this House and outside of it, pose as the friends of the working men, and as the party who are in sympathy with the masses. Let us see whether their actions correspond with their professions in this respect :

"The Customs duties on tea and coffee for the undermentioned years were as follows:—

	From '74 to 20th Feb., '77.	From 20th Feb., '77, to 15th March, '79.	From 15th March, '79, to 24th Feb., '82.	From 24th Feb., '82.
Coffee, green.....	2c. per lb.	2s. per lb.	2c. per lb.	Free.
" roasted or ground.....	3c. "	3c. "	3c. "	3s. per lb.
Tea, green.....	4c. "	6c. "	{ 3c. " & 10 p. c. ad val.	Free.
" black.....	3c. "	5c. "	{ 2c. per lb. & 10 p. c. ad val.	

An additional duty, which is still in force of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, was imposed on all tea and coffee from the United States."

Thereby encouraging especially to the shipping of our ports. I will now proceed, with the permission of the House, to show the aggregate reduction which has taken

Mr. DICKINSON.

place—the reduction of the real taxes, because it was a reduction upon the necessities of life principally, or at least what had become the necessities of life, so far as tea and coffee are concerned. The amount of Customs duties collected on tea, under the old tariff, in excess of the duties which would have been collected had the previous Conservative tariff remained in operation, was \$304,639. The amount of duties which would have been collected on tea and coffee under the tariff of 1879, since those articles were made free, has been reduced by an aggregate, for the years 1882, 1883 and 1884, of \$1,869,996. The aggregate further loss to the revenue, by reductions in the tariff on promiscuous items, from 1880 to 1884 inclusive, would be \$2,736,931. The abolition of bill stamps since the 4th of March, 1882, has decreased the revenue by about a yearly average of \$100,000, or say, to date, \$400,000; and the loss to revenue from the abolition of postage on newspapers since the 1st of June, 1882, say about four years, an annual average of \$60,000, or a total of \$240,000, making a grand total of \$5,551,566 saved to the people of our country by the operation of the National Policy in respect to the above items alone. The result of all changes under this paternal policy, as conclusively shown by the Finance Minister, is an average decrease of taxation of at least 9½ cents per head of our population, from 1879 to 1884 inclusive, as compared with Grit rule from 1874 to 1879, notwithstanding the enormous expenditures during the former years by the present Government on the Canadian Pacific Railway, now on the eve of completion, and general railroad extensions. There have also been spent millions upon improvements of our rivers and canals, and various public buildings throughout the Dominion, all of which will, directly or indirectly, become revenue-producing, including a large extension of postal service throughout the entire Dominion. In dealing with the general results of the policy adopted by this Government and the manner in which it dealt with the necessities of life—lifting the burden of taxation from the poorer and equalising it in such a manner as to make the rich pay for their luxuries in proportion to their wealth and habits—the fact should not be lost sight of, that the Dominion is to-day paying interest on millions of dollars, the result of reckless extravagance during times of gloom and depression upon the part of the preceding administration. For all time to come the millions wasted in an absurd purchase of steel rails, in useless North-West telegraph failures, in Fort Francis lock construction, in the Welland canal enlargement—where the Government commenced at the wrong end, and left capital lying there for years. These must be paid by the people, in consequence of their having believed in and trusted Reform leaders and Reform professions. I think it will not be unprofitable to this House and to the country to have their attention drawn to the difference of results in regard to our general position, as affecting the credit of our country, with respect to deficits as compared with surpluses. Under the rule of the hon. ex-Minister of Finance, the deficits were as follows:—

1875-76.....	\$1,900,785
1876-77.....	1,480,026
1877-78.....	1,128,147
1878-79.....	1,937,999
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1879-80, disputed.....	\$6,426,957
	1,543,228
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Total.....	\$7,970,185

So that, leaving entirely out of account the amount as to which there is a dispute, the total deficits for that period amount to \$6,426,957, although I have no doubt that the fact could be established that the larger amount is nearer the actual deficit. The surpluses under the present Government are as follows:—