

men, hard-working farmers, to whom the Hon. Mr. Brown referred, and who had been compelled, under the old system, to leave the country and settle in the neighbouring Republic, under whose financial system they found that protection which had been refused to them in Canada, for their products, and their skilled labour. He was free to admit that, if he looked to the interests of the Province of Quebec solely, he would certainly have preferred that a duty had not been imposed on flour and wheat; but he considered it would be a very narrow-minded policy for any Government to frame in a country like this, a financial policy, which would not be one of mutual concessions, of give and take, so far as the different Provinces were concerned; so that the present tariff ought to be one which would be acceptable to the whole Dominion. He considered that this Protection which had been accorded to agricultural products would have one very beneficial effect, as far as the Province of Quebec was concerned. They had, as hon. gentlemen knew, north of Quebec, the great valley of the Lake of St. John, than which—and he could state it without fear of contradiction—there was no better wheat-producing district in the Dominion of Canada. Last year, without any railway communication, without advantages possessed by other portions of the Province, some 10,000 bushels of the best wheat ever known in Canada was taken out of that valley, and, since the introduction of the new tariff, he knew that a number of people who had lived in the older parishes in the different counties round Quebec were going to settle in that valley.

Some HON. GENTLEMEN: Hear, hear.

MR. CARON said the hon. gentlemen might say "hear, hear;" but he knew some 40 or 50 families who had left their old homes in his county and elsewhere, and gone to the valley of the Lake of St. John. This district was considered of so much importance that some of the wealthier capitalists in the city of Quebec, aided by municipal subsidies, and also by one granted by the Local Government of Quebec, were now trying, and would succeed, to build a railway

between that valley and St. John, a distance of 150 miles, which would open up to the Quebec market one of the richest wheat growing districts in the Dominion, and give Quebec a valuable back country. That was an advantage which hon. gentlemen from the Province of Quebec could not overlook, and which, certainly, must be taken into consideration. In favouring a policy like the present one, it was necessary to take the future into consideration, and construct a tariff which would foster every branch of industry, as far as was practicable, and give that Protection to commercial interests which would render this country hereafter rich and prosperous. The valley of the Lake of St. John, as was well known, was not only considered to be one of the richest agricultural districts in the Province, but it was destined to become the home of the half million of people who, for several years past, had been leaving the country and going to the United States. If this railway could be built, as he hoped it would, and he hoped the Government of the day would see their way clear to help the road, the district referred to would contribute its full share to the wealth and prosperity of the country. Besides this Protection, which he considered the policy of the hon. the Finance Minister would give to agriculturists, he was of opinion that Protection had also been extended to the different interests which they must take into consideration, and which certainly contributed so largely to the welfare of a people. If this tariff was destined, as he believed it was, to produce these happy results, was it not a policy which should be acceptable to the whole of the people of Canada? In Quebec they had a ship-building industry, and they had large and important factories: such as cabinet factories, carriage factories, rope-walks, which required to be fostered, which they certainly were not under the system which prevailed when the late Government were in power. Last year alone, they imported \$399,794 worth of furniture; also, \$85,634 worth of carriages. Whilst at the time they had in Quebec alone—of course, he spoke of the locality which he was most acquainted with—they had a large cabinet manufactory, in which had been invested a very

MR. CARON.