

1877, they were \$1,931,000, while, in 1883, they were \$1,887,000. The hon. gentleman speaks of the prices having been enhanced by the manufactures which have sprung up in the country; but if he looks into the facts he will find that those prices have been enhanced by the increase in the lumbering business—a statement which I am sure will be borne out by hon. members from the Province of New Brunswick. The hon. gentleman will find that while, in 1874, the percentage of duties which the poor people of the Island had to pay was 11·47, they are now paying 25 per cent. The National Policy may have had, and doubtless has had, beneficial effects on certain towns or certain parts of the Dominion, but it is well known that upon a purely agricultural community it can work, it has worked, and is working, nothing but ruin. Let the hon. gentleman go to the chief city of the Island and offer any property in it for sale and see if he will get a purchaser. He will find that the places formerly owned and occupied by workmen are vacant, and are offered to let everywhere. In the country parts whole settlements have left the place, and though I am glad that some of them have gone to our own territories in Manitoba and the North-West, the larger portion have gone to build up and increase the neighboring Republic. This, however, is apart from the question before the House.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVIES. Hon. gentlemen say "hear, hear," but I should not have referred to the question at all had not the hon. member for Prince County introduced the subject by making a statement with reference to the prosperity of Prince Edward Island, which it would not have been fair to have let pass in silence. While I believe that the company have efficiently carried out their contract, I trust that the hon. gentleman at the head of the Department will, either by means of an increased subsidy or in some other way, put on a boat which will carry on the work earlier in the spring and later in the fall than at present, and that he will give his assurance that some measures will be taken to supplement the work of the *Northern Light* by putting on another boat.

Mr. HACKETT. I do not think it is right that the hon. members from Prince Edward Island should monopolize the whole time of the House; but as there is not much business now before us, I trust it will not be considered out of place for me to offer a few remarks. When I first heard of the motion for the appointment of a Committee I had some slight objections to it, thinking perhaps it might retard the progress of this work of opening communication with the Island. The people of the Island desire the Government to carry out the work they have initiated. The Government have begun that work, for the money was voted for the branch railway from Cape Traverse to the main line, and I was glad to have the assurance of the hon. Minister that it would be built this year; and that point being settled I could see no objection to the motion. Information is required on the question. Every man living on the Island has an opinion of his own on the subject, and what we should get is the best evidence possible to be obtained, so that when the money comes to be expended it will be expended intelligently, and in the way best adapted to secure the opening up of this communication. Now, I want to say a word or two in reply to the hon. member from Queen's County (Mr. Davies). That hon. gentleman has thought proper to make a long speech on the subject of the National Policy—and I may say he comes from Prince Edward Island for the purpose of repealing that policy. That is his object in coming here. He is not content with the policy of the people of Canada; he must have a policy for Prince Edward Island. But I am prepared to show, from figures, that the hon. gentleman is quite incorrect with regard to the effects of that policy on Prince Edward Island.

Mr. DAVIES.

The hon. gentleman says the people of the Island are leaving it in swarms. The truth is that in the fall of the year a great many young men who are engaged in the fishing industry during the summer, are thrown out of employment, and it becomes necessary for them to seek employment in the lumber districts of the neighboring Provinces; but they return in the spring. There has not been that exodus from the Island which the hon. gentleman represents. Not very long ago the *Summerside Journal*, the organ of the hon. gentleman and his party in Prince County, had the honesty to admit that the young men who had gone abroad were returning, having found that the little Island in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence provided them with a better home than they could get abroad; and I believe they will continue to return, notwithstanding the efforts of the hon. gentleman and his party to drive them from the Province. There is at present 40,000 or 50,000 acres of wilderness land as good in Prince Edward Island as can be found in any other part of the Dominion. Instead of publishing to the world that the Province is in ruin and misery, we should stand up here and say that it is prosperous; we should endeavor to secure for the Island a portion of the large immigration which has come into the country in consequence of the National Policy. What are the facts? We can have no better indication of the prosperity of a country than the amount of the people's deposits in the savings banks. Last year we find that the farmers of Prince Edward Island deposited in the savings banks some \$300,000 more than they did the year previous. Is that an indication of ruin and want? On the contrary, I take it as being indicative of the progress and prosperity of the country. Now, I just want to cite to the hon. gentleman a few statistics with regard to shipping. He has endeavored to make it appear that our ships are being swept off the water, and that no shipping of any account is now registered at the port of Charlottetown. Such is not the case. If we have not the shipping in Prince Edward Island, it is because our ships get better freights in the lumber trade of New Brunswick. But if the hon. gentleman will look at the figures, he will find that there has been no such decrease in the tonnage of Prince Edward Island as he represents; but that our ship owners stand in a better position than they did in 1873, when we entered the Confederation. In 1873, the number of tons of shipping registered at the port of Charlottetown was 38,913, while, in 1882, the year when the hon. gentleman says there was no shipping in Prince Edward Island, the tonnage amounted to 41,684 tons, an increase of nearly 3,000 tons. These are facts, and it would be better for the hon. gentleman, before he rises in this House to proclaim that every industry on the Island is being ruined, to consult the figures and gain some information on the subject. Then with regard to prices, which the hon. gentleman says are so low as to produce great want and misery among the farmers, I will show you that they are getting better prices than they did in 1878, in the days of darkness and disaster, when the hon. gentleman's friends ruled this country. In 1878, the price, at Charlottetown, of oats, one of the staple products of the Island, was 32 cents a bushel, while, in 1882, it had increased to 36 cents, or an addition of 4 cents a bushel. That does not look much like ruin for the farmers. Then, with regard to pork—in 1878, the price was 4½ cents a pound in Charlottetown, while, last year, it was 9 cents a pound, or an increase of 100 per cent.

Mr. DAVIES. Did the National Policy do that?

Mr. HACKETT. Certainly it did. The National Policy did it by bringing prosperity to the miners of Nova Scotia, by building up industries in the Province of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and by bringing prosperity to the whole Dominion, by means of which the farmers of Prince Edward Island have been enabled to sell their