

the industries of the country. On that committee sat as chairman the Minister of the Interior. Evidence was produced which showed clearly and unmistakably that the policy of the government was unsound, that the policy of the government was paralyzing the industries of the country. That even the products of our farmers were met by the products of the United States coming in and competing with them in our own market. It was called the jug-handled policy of the government. What did the government do? Did they do anything in the interests of the country? No, in order to raise the revenue, they went over the whole tariff and raised it indiscriminately 2½ per cent. The report of that committee showed a sad condition of things. The majority of that committee were supporters of the Liberal government and, after having carefully collected the evidence, they reported that in the year 1875 there were 1,391 failures. Fancy 1,391 failures in Canada, with losses aggregating \$26,933,000. That was the condition of Canada under my hon. friend who now leads the opposition in this House, and my hon. friend it seems to me had a great deal of assurance, after the verdict of the country in condemning the policy of his party, and after seventeen years of our policy has proved, as I believe it has proved, that every branch of industry has been strengthened and developed, in coming here and making an assertion of that kind about the National Policy being a failure simply because last year there was a deficit and the national debt was the same and not increased. Now, I showed yesterday, although I had not the statistics before me, that our trade and commerce had not decreased; that the chief thing to depend upon was the exports of the country, our power to produce and to sell, and I showed them that we had never before arrived at so high a degree of prosperity. We had the largest exportation in 1893 that Canada ever had: such a large amount of the products of industry to export was marvellous, and it was last year that I showed that the products of the country equalled if they did not exceed what they had been in previous years. But simply in consequence of the paralyzed condition of trade in other countries our products did not bring the value they should have brought. It is not that the industries of the country have failed, nor that the government have failed, nor that their policy

was wrong, but simply because the depression in trade and business in every country to which we exported was so great that the values fell, and consequently the value of our exports fell. I have here a statement covering the periods from 1888 to 1894, inclusive, which shows, year by year, the increase in the productive industry of the country and the total foreign trade of the country during that period. It is as follows:—Value of the total foreign trade of Canada for the years 1888 to 1894:

1888	.....\$	201,097,630
1889	.....	204,414,098
1890	.....	218,607,390
1891	.....	218,384,932
1892	.....	241,369,443
1893	.....	247,638,620
1894	.....	240,999,889

The decline last year is not in quantity but in prices. No such satisfactory showing can be made by Great Britain or the United States: in those countries it was not only in values but in volume.

Now let us take the exports for the same years:—

1888	.....\$	90,203,000
1889	.....	89,189,167
1890	.....	96,749,149
1891	.....	98,417,296
1892	.....	113,963,375
1893	.....	118,593,352
1894	.....	117,524,949

This also shows that our exports are yearly increasing in quantity and value. Reckoning the lowest price of wheat and other products last year.

1888	Imports	\$102,847,100	Duties	\$22,209,641
1889	"	109,673,447	"	23,784,523
1890	"	112,765,584	"	24,014,908
1891	"	113,345,124	"	23,481,096
1892	"	116,978,943	"	20,550,581
1893	"	121,795,030	"	21,161,710
1894	"	113,093,983	"	19,375,822

The following table also shows the total value of exports from Nova Scotia in the year previous to Grit government rule, during the years under Grit free trade, and during the past five years:

1874	.....\$	7,656,547
1875	.....	6,679,130
1876	.....	7,164,558
1877	.....	7,812,041
1878	.....\$	7,500,783
1879	.....	7,364,324
1890	.....	9,468,409
1891	.....	9,925,646
1892	.....	10,982,509
1893	.....	10,634,863
1894	.....	10,713,440