

were \$99,241,325, being an increase in that period of \$35,393,180, and an increase during the five years of \$53,000,000 taking into account both the Post Office Savings Bank and the chartered banks of the country. This is evidence that the people are earning money and have a surplus or they would not be in a position to add so largely to the deposits in our banking institutions. The hon. member for Brant (Mr. Paterson) stated last year that this was no proof of increased earnings among the masses, because there appeared to be a much larger increase in the Maritime Provinces than elsewhere, and it could not be pretended that more money had been earned in those Provinces than in Ontario and Quebec. In the Lower Provinces the people have not been in the habit of making deposits in the banks and the banks have not encouraged the payment of interest on deposits, and the result has been that the spare money of the people of the Maritime Provinces has for many years gone into the savings bank, while the chartered banks of Ontario and Quebec have paid perhaps a higher rate of interest than the Post Office Savings Bank, and the people have deposited largely with those institutions. That accounts for the apparently large increase in the Maritime Provinces as compared with Ontario and Quebec. It may be said that within the last three or four months the wages of employes of manufacturers in the Dominion have in some cases been reduced; that we have not so many men employed just now as we had three or four months ago. I am free to admit that Canadian manufacturers have to-day an unusual strain put on them. And from what cause is this strain? Every hon. member knows that manufacturers in Great Britain, where the policy of Free Trade prevails, and manufacturers in the United States where Protection prevails, have surplus stock on hand, that they are reducing the number of their employes, that they are diminishing their wages, that they are compelled to sell their surplus stocks, and the stocks they are even now producing from day to day at a lower rate than usual. Those reductions have in many cases taken place, though resisted by the operatives in both England and the United States. What is the result? Our American neighbours and British manufacturers, owing to their profits being reduced and the wages paid to their operatives being now lower than before, come to our market and are sharply competing to-day with the Canadian manufacturers. As the prices paid for labour in the United States must regulate to some extent the price of labour in Canada, because if the wages are not about equal the operatives will soon pass across the line. Our manufacturers found it necessary to increase the wages here when an advance took place