

Sir LEONARD TILLEY — That is sufficient apology ; the consequence to the hon. gentleman might have been serious had he not delivered himself.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant) — If the hon. gentleman will allow me, I will state that in the 35 articles of which there has been a decrease in the exports, ships are included to the amount of some \$700,000 ; but in the other articles there is a decrease in our exports of \$733,000.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY — I looked into that matter last night, taking the exports of the manufactures of Canada for 1878, and those for 1880 ; in both cases he included ships. It made over \$800,000 taking the whole of the exports, and if we take the ships out it made a difference of only about \$100,000.

GENERAL PROSPERITY OF THE COUNTRY.

Now, I desire to approach a question in which we are all interested, and that is the general prosperity of the country. I do hear occasionally some of our friends in the Opposition saying, " Oh, well, times are better, they are improved, but then the National Policy has had nothing to do with it." I thank them for that, because it is really something for the country to have hon. gentlemen opposite say that times have improved in Canada. It has been a long time since they have done that. Now, I have some few facts before me which I think are calculated to establish pretty clearly that times have improved. Look at our commerce. In 1878-79 vessels inward and outward amounted to 6,088,550 tons ; in 1879-80 they were 6,786,000 tons, an increase of 700,000 tons, while in the latter period there were 112,525 seamen against 104,039 in the former period. We hear some hon. gentlemen say, " What has that got to do with manufactures ? " As I stated before, 100,000 tons of that increase was due to the importation of coal and sugar alone, the direct result of the restoration of the refining industries. The total exports for 1878-79 were \$71,491,000, those for 1879-80 were \$87,911,000, or an increase of \$16,420,000 ; the annual average excess of imports over exports since 1867 amounts to \$20,000,000 a year ; last year the excess of exports was \$1,451,711 — the first instance of the kind in the history of Canada. That is due to a certain extent to two causes : first, because we increased the value of raw materials by manufacture by \$6,000,000, which diminished the value of the imports by the same sum ; then we increased the exports,