

Minister of that colony, after I had pointed out these facts as an illustration of what could be done between the two countries, and said that if we had direct communication we could take their products in exchange for those we had to sell—how was I met by the treasurer of New South Wales? He said, "That is just what we have done: we are trying to prevent your people bringing those things into this country, and we desire to establish manufactures of our own." My reply to that was "you are quite right to do precisely as we Canadians did." Before 1878 Canada was made the "dumping ground," as my hon. friend designated it the other day, for all the surplus stock that they had in the United States or nearly the whole of it. We were depending on them for nearly all we required in this country for our agricultural wants. Now, I said, "we put a high duty on imports. We encouraged people to invest their money in manufacturing industries, and they did invest it—they went on progressing until they have reached the status which they now occupy. They have carried on the competition not only in Canada but in France, England and your own country, and succeeded in carrying off the prizes, giving evidence that they produce as good or a better article than any other country. Go on precisely as we did. I have no fault to find with you; but until you have attained that efficiency in the manufacture of agricultural implements and other things that we can supply you with now, we want you to take them from us instead of the United States." He said, "I have no objection to that." My reply was: "If you desire to buy, buy from us, from your kin, your brothers, living under the same flag"—and I am glad to say that that feeling prevails not only now, but has for some time prevailed in the Australian colonies, and they will deal with us in the future, I am quite satisfied, when they desire to obtain those articles which they do not manufacture themselves, rather than deal with any other country, if we can only have direct and continued communication with them. So much on that point. My hon. friend then says, "Throw down the barriers—wipe out the distinction that exists between our tariffs." I do not know that he intended that remark to apply particularly to England, where there is free trade. If he did not, then it simply means this, that we are to destroy all our industrial establishments in

Canada and to provide a a market for our friends across the border.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I spoke of the colonies. I said we could easily get up a trade with Australia by taking down our tariff.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL.—That is precisely the policy of this Government, and that is the very reason why the Government sent me to Australia to try to accomplish such an object. Having given, by the sanction of Parliament, without a dissenting voice, one hundred thousand dollars to establish direct communications between the Australian colonies and Canada, the next thing to accomplish was to establish a trade, if possible; and if, when the convention meets, anything like fair propositions are made by which we can have access to their markets for that which we have to produce—lumber, fish and other articles—we shall be very glad to reciprocate, so in that respect the hon. leader of the Opposition and myself and the Government are for once, at least, in accord. Has the protective policy done that harm and injury to the people that my hon. friend says it has, or do not the figures, as given in the Trade and Navigation returns, show that we are progressing and that our markets are equal to, if not better than they ever were before? Has it been a loss, except of a temporary character to this country, to the farming community particularly, or to any other class of people, to have partially lost the United States markets? I readily admit that any violent or sudden change in the fiscal policy, or the tariff, of any country, particularly in countries lying contiguous to each other, as do Canada and the United States, must of necessity have a serious effect at the time. Now, as an illustration, it would be folly for me to say that the imposition of 30 cents per bushel on barley did not temporarily affect the people of my own province of Ontario. But the farmers of Ontario—and my remarks apply as much to the people of the other provinces as to the people of Ontario—showed that they were quite able to meet any emergency. When the reciprocity treaty was repealed we had an illustration of this. Then the United States was the market for all our coarse grains and animals. That was cut off. Then our farmers turned their attention to other pursuits, particularly in the way of dairying, and I do not hesitate to say that they—I