

favourable to the Government of the day. I went and got a copy of the original report. The Trade and Navigation Returns show that in 1877, the very year that my hon. friend mentioned, there were 8,260,079 bushels of Indian corn brought into Canada and entered for consumption, of which Ontario took 6,719,000 bushels. Now what was the price of oats and the price of barley and coarse grains at that time, in Chicago and Toronto? Oats in Toronto, as shown by the report of the Commission in 1877, were 43 cents a bushel; in Chicago they were 31¼ cents, a difference in favour of Toronto of 11½ cents. When we come to 1881, how much corn came into Canada for consumption during that year? Just 2,043,000 bushels, as against 8,260,000 bushels four years previously. The price of oats in Toronto was 39¼ cents per bushel; the price in Chicago was 37 83-100, or within about 2 cents per bushel of the Toronto price. At this time 2,000,000 bushels of corn were brought into the country annually. Let me now give the prices when 8,000,000 bushels of corn were imported. They were as follows:—

—	Toronto Price.	Chicago Price.	Difference.
Rye, 1877 ...	70c.	\$ 62¼c.	7¼c. in favour of Toronto.
“ 1881 ...	89	91.75	2¼c. in favour of Chicago.
Barley, 1877.	73¼	58½	15c. in favour of Toronto.
“ 1881.	91	1.09	18c. in favour of Chicago.

I have another statement showing how the National Policy works injuriously to the farmers as regards coarse grains. Take the years 1874-75-76-77 and 1878; the average price of oats was 33 cents, on October 20. The average price in 1878-79 and 1881 was the same, although a larger quantity of corn had been consumed during the first period and a smaller quantity during the latter period. The average price of barley during the first five years mentioned was 88 cents, and it was only 80 cents during the second period. The hon. members will notice that there was this reduction in the price of barley when a smaller quantity of corn was being consumed, the date of this report being November 20. The average price of oats in June during the years 1874-75-76-77 and 1878 was 45 cents; the average price at the same dates for 1879-1881 was 40 cents. These figures show conclusively that the price of oats has not been injured by the large importation of corn into Canada, and the same remark applies to barley.

I take a statement from the “Globe” of

March 29th, 1897. The price of oats was quoted at 22 cents in Toronto and 22 cents in Buffalo, corn being then quoted at 27 cents in Buffalo. A farmer sells 50 bushels of oats at 22 cents and receives \$11. He buys corn at 27 cents a bushel and for the \$11 he obtains 40 bushels and 20 pounds of corn. The 50 bushels of oats at 34 pounds per bushel give 1,700 pounds of feed. Forty bushels and 20 pounds of corn at 56 pounds to the bushel give a total of 2,260 pounds of feed. If you deduct the 1,700 pounds from the 2,260 pounds, there is a balance of 560 pounds of feed. One bushel of oats being equivalent to 34 pounds of feed, there is a gain of 10 bushels of corn, which is equivalent to the value of \$2.70. I have already stated that western corn has been selling at 18 cents and oats at from 15 cents to 18 cents in Windsor. Will any hon. member who knows anything about farming tell me why a farmer should not sell a portion of his oats and buy corn, because it is well known that better results are obtained from a variety of feed. So why should not the farmers have the privilege of selling their oats and buying corn in return on the best possible terms. The hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) stated the other day that corn sold in Toronto at 25½ cents, and oats were selling at 26 and 27 cents. Under such circumstances, would not a farmer be foolish if he did not sell a portion of his oats and purchase corn. I consider that one of the greatest benefits that can be conferred upon the farmer is to give him cheap feed, and I know of no other feed that can be obtained that will give better results for stock than corn. The day has come when every farmer in the country has to economize as much as possible and I think the farmer will benefit by selling part of his coarse grains and purchasing corn, because we must return to the land all we take out of it and even a little more if possible. In my opinion no greater benefit could have been conferred on the farmers of Ontario, Quebec, and the other provinces, than that of giving them free corn. The Government have taken the position that they were justified in favouring the farmers against the distillers. Formerly the distiller obtained free corn but not the farmer; the distiller obtained practically a rebate on his whisky, while the farmer had no advantage in regard to the beef he exported. It has been stated that the farmers will purchase corn and sell it to distillers. I am glad to say that the statement was not made by a farmer but by a member of some other class of the community, for I do not believe any farmer would take such a step. The farmers want a fair field and no favour, for we believe we are able to compete with the people of any nation. Britain has been referred to, and reference has been made to the distressed condition of the agricultural classes.