

a very large increase over the year immediately preceding, and exceeding the largest record made in this Dominion in any previous year, that of 1883, by \$11,029,619. But that is not the whole truth, Mr. Speaker. If the policy of protection carries out the design of its framers, it must, other things being equal, cause the imports and the exports of the country passing through the custom-house to gradually decrease. By encouraging the manufacture in this country of a large number of products which previously we purchased abroad, it must necessarily decrease the imports; and by promoting the manufacture in this country of our own raw material, and having it expended among the wage earners and the increased population in the land, this policy must naturally decrease the exports. Then we have to take into account the decline in the value of goods during the past ten years, which has been something remarkable. Statisticians, and all the best authorities, tell us that this decline amounts to at least one-third, which will give some idea of the tremendous gain this country has made in the last ten years, both with respect to its exports and imports. There is one other point to which I desire to call your attention, Sir, in this connection, and it is that our farmers are putting the natural products of the country into manufactured products, and some members of this House may be surprised to learn that, in the year 1892, the dairy products of this country exported to England amounted to \$12,708,407, while the dairy exports of the United States to England only amounted to \$11,038,884, or \$1,750,000 less from a country of 65,000,000 people than from a country of 5,000,000 people. With regard to the province from which I come, the province of New Brunswick, there are a few figures which I would like to submit to the House. We have been told that our industries are waning and that dry rot has settled down upon our province. The census figures, to which we are often invited to make reference, do not prove anything of the kind. What do these figures show with regard to the number of manufacturing establishments? In 1881 we had in New Brunswick only 3,117 manufacturing establishments; in 1891 we had 5,419, or nearly double the number. The amount of capital invested in these factories in 1881 was \$8,425,282, and in 1891, \$16,608,755, or nearly double. The number of employees in those manufactories in 1881 was 19,922, whereas in 1891 it reached 26,609. In 1881, the wages paid to those wage earners in those factories amounted to \$3,866,011, and in 1891 they had risen to \$5,936,021, while the value of the products increased from \$18,512,058 in 1881 to \$23,685,636 in 1891. With regard to the revenue and expenditure, which is the next point to which our attention is called in the Speech from the Throne, in 1891-92, the receipts on account of the consolidated fund amounted to \$36,921,871,

and the expenditure to \$36,765,894, leaving a surplus of \$155,977. The amount of that surplus, Mr. Speaker, shows that the finances of the country have been carefully looked after; it shows that the expenditure has been met and that no more has been taken out of the pockets of the people than was necessary for the carrying on of our public works. But the figures that I have submitted for the past year will be more than met satisfactorily by those for the year 1892, because I am informed that for the six months ending 31st December, 1892, the receipts on account of the consolidated fund amounted to \$18,559,024, as against an expenditure of \$13,842,497. I think that the financial standing of this country during the past year shows, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that this country has progressed, and progressed in a remarkable way. The next thing to which our attention is called is the admirable management of the Government railways. Instead of showing, as usual, a deficit of nearly half a million dollars, I am told the deficit will only be something like \$7,000; but, although that deficit has been so decreased, I hope the decrease has not been effected at the expense of the efficiency of the service. I trust that an eye single will continue to be had to this great principle, that the bond of confederation between the Maritime Provinces and the western provinces is the Intercolonial Railway. The building and maintenance of that railway was one of the main conditions upon which we entered Confederation, and it would be a sad day when we would see the efficiency of that service destroyed or diminished in any degree. But I claim that no diminution has taken place, and that the efficiency of the service is not impaired; and the Railway Department deserves the greatest credit from the House and the country for the manner in which that service has been carried out during the past year. The next subject referred to is the immigration in Manitoba and the North-west Territories. We are told that has increased. We are told that there has been a strong movement of population into that country of late. It cannot be denied that the North-west rebellion had a very deterrent effect upon the settlement of that country, but we can now look for a larger immigration, and I am informed that the homestead entries last year were 50 per cent more than during the preceding year, and in advance of any year in the history of the country. There is another point in that connection to which I will refer. The statisticians of the United States inform us that the surplus of wheat grown in the United States is now about 150,000,000 bushels per year, but that the home consumption is catching up to that surplus to the extent of about 12,000,000 bushels a year, so that in fifteen years at the furthest the home consumption of American wheat will be equal to the amount produced. When that day arrives a bright era will have dawned for the great Canadian