

carriers of the flour. In this way, although the exports might appear to be more than the imports, the country might be growing in wealth during the whole time. He considered it was rather an indication of prosperity, that we were able to buy a larger amount than we exported, based on the value of the exports as they left our ports. They had another illustration in a new branch of trade that had lately grown to very large proportions—he referred to the export of dressed meats. There was one firm now in Toronto that slaughtered 200 head of the largest oxen they could purchase every week, for this trade. This meat was shipped in refrigerator cars to ocean ports, and then into vessels with refrigerator compartments to London and Liverpool, where it sold at an advance of 50 per cent. on its cost. In this way a cargo of beef valued at \$100,000 as shipped from our ports, added fifty per cent. of its value to the wealth of the country, the profits being divided between the Canadian shipper, Canadian railways, and the packer who prepared the meat for export. The same principle of trade was involved all over the world. One of the most important points in connection with the discussion of this whole question was the adoption of a policy that would develop our industries so as to render the products of the field and forest more valuable for export. The business that was being done at the present time was tending rapidly in that direction. They had, for example, the packers of pork as well as of beef, who purchased all the hogs they could get from the farmers of Canada, but as they could not get enough at home to meet their demands, they had to buy in Chicago, where hogs and cattle could be obtained to almost an unlimited extent. Parties employed in this packing business were realizing immense profits, and were supplying labor to a large number of workmen. In this trade the manner in which the raw products of Canada and the Western States were being handled in this country was adding to the wealth of the Dominion, and was reacting in the development of the internal resources of the country. Our exports of agricultural products amounted to about \$12,000,000 more than the imports, and the exports of animals and their products were also several millions of dollars more than the imports, showing that the value of our exports was not ruled by the prices paid for the same class of articles consumed in the Dominion. Our packers take the products of the Western States, and prepare them for export, and, when they are offered for sale side by side with Canadian produce in Liverpool or Man-

chester, they realize the same prices. So long as they could foster a trade of this kind, the wealth of our citizens would go on increasing, and it would build up our towns and cities along the main lines of railway. It was by such means the wealth was acquired in the cities, by which our railways were extended and the country was opened up for increased production. Supposing the country adopted the policy indicated in the motion of his honorable friend from Belleville, if we could not get reciprocity of trade, and adopt a reciprocity of tariff, it would not assist our great staple—the lumber trade—in the least, and to impose a duty on wheat, pork and flour would only increase the lumberman's burthen. A duty on those products would simply have the effect of creating rings to make "corners" in those articles, when our market was bare, before the new crop came in. A corner could not be effected on these articles in Canada at present, as an unlimited supply could be obtained from Chicago on the shortest notice, and in that way the consumer was protected from the effect of sudden rises, or the operations of speculators. A duty on coarse grains would be a serious injury to the flourishing trade of stock feeding, which was developing into such large proportions in Western Ontario; and he had too high an opinion of the patriotism of his honorable friend to suppose for a moment that he had any desire to do what would injure the country. On the trunk lines of railway at such places as Guelph, Stratford, London, and other towns in the west, a large class of wealthy farmers are engaged in buying up young grass-fed cattle, and stall-feeding them for slaughter. These heaves were put in such condition by systematic feeding that they frequently sold as high as ten cents per pound, live weight, and they were shipped and sold in the London markets as Christmas and Easter beef. This trade had increased to such an extent that the Canadian farmers were no longer able to supply the demand, and stock had to be brought in from the Western States for our stock-feeders, to be fed until it was in marketable condition. By imposing a duty on coarse grain which was used for feeding purposes, this profitable business would be destroyed. The same principle applied to all branches of trade. The 50,000 Indians who were employed collecting furs for the Hudson Bay Company, for instance, did not make as much wealth, all combined, as the few individuals who formed the Company and who handled the furs after they had been collected. It was the same in every branch of business; the people who take the raw products and