

imports and exports, that last year the Americans introduced into this country 1,697,700 bushels of oats, amounting in value to \$610,491. These oats came from the United States, and the result was that the value of oats was considerably reduced, very much to the detriment of the farmers of the Province of Quebec. During the same period, we exported to England and other countries 2,970,284 bushels of oats, which showed we were producing more oats than we consumed. It was impossible for us to compete against this foreign produce which was coming into our markets without we had the same privilege of sending our surplus productions on the same conditions into the United States. It seemed to him that the present Government, in imposing this duty, had in view the agricultural interest of this country, and they could not be too highly eulogised for having protected this important branch of our national prosperity. As he viewed it, the result of the present tariff would be to increase the production of oats in Lower Canada, and the Province of Quebec was a Province in which oats could be produced on a very large scale. Last year we imported from the Americans very nearly 8,000,000 bushels of Indian corn, and, if he understood the question at all, he believed that this Indian corn was used to a very great extent for distilling purposes, and could be very well replaced by Canadian oats. The effect of the tariff would also be to induce our agriculturists to give more attention to the production of Indian corn. There was absolutely nothing to prevent us in Canada from producing Indian corn, except the policy which had so long prevailed in Canada. He considered that, under this tariff, not only the farmers of the Province of Quebec, but of the whole Dominion, would be stimulated to increase their agricultural productions, and more particularly the production of Indian corn. What he complained of was that, under the old tariff, the Americans had absolute control of our markets, without paying any duty. It was impossible to read the late Canadian tariff, and the United States tariff, without coming to the conclusion that the policy of the United States tended to make the Dominion a slaugh-

ter market for their goods, and to deprive Canada of a reciprocity of tariff with them. As an instance of the absence of reciprocity, he would state that, last year, we exported to the United States 6,243,033 bushels of barley, on which we paid a duty of 15c. a bushel. It seemed to him that, if the Americans could collect 15c. a bushel on barley, it could hardly be considered an advantage to Canada to allow American produce to come into Canada without imposing any duty whatever. No one could come to any other conclusion but that the American tariff was unjust as far as Canada was concerned; that our late tariff was simply ridiculous in admitting all these articles of commerce without any reciprocity of tariff. Not only was that the fact, but the late Administration, for a time, considered it was necessary to change the tariff which existed in this country. He remembered very well when the Hon. Mr. Brown went to the United States for the purpose of negotiating a reciprocity treaty. In his speech to the Senate (22nd February, 1875), after alluding to the way in which the American tariff would affect Canadian agricultural interests, he stated:

"And now let us place in contrast with this the great agricultural interest, with its half million of hardy workers—which has no Protection—which feeds the whole people, and contributes, besides, annually to the foreign exports of the Dominion, commodities to the value of thirty-four millions of dollars."

He thereby admitted that, under the system which the hon. gentleman considered should exist in Canada, their agricultural interests were ignored, and that it had become necessary to protect those interests against American competition; and, therefore, he and his political friends considered that the position of Canada was such that they had to look somewhere to improve the relations which existed between the United States and Canada, as far as the Dominion was concerned. He believed that the present Government, in adopting their present Protective policy, were carrying out these very views, which struck the minds of hon. gentlemen opposite when in power as proper, and which, to-day, had become an absolute necessity, if Canada wished to keep within this country those hard-working families, those young