

seconding the Address, made the statement that the late Sir John A. Macdonald, whom we all revere, and whose memory we respect, stood by the National Policy, and asked the people to stand by it; but what we have to do in discussing a question of this kind is to pick out what is good of the policy of our late respected leader who has gone and leave out what we think is not suitable to our requirements from year to year. He did not hand down to us a hard and fast law that should bind the people of Canada. To accomplish a certain result—in order to complete the Canadian Pacific Railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific—he saw it was necessary to revive our failing revenues, and the only way it could be done was by adopting a National Policy, which has accomplished that result. We now have an opportunity of comparing what has been the effect of the National Policy between the years 1880 and 1890, and we also have the previous decade to compare with, between 1868 and 1879—two distinct periods that we can refer to in discussing this question. We have also statistics of the country that have been prepared for our guidance. As it has been very aptly put by others, our statistics is our national book-keeping, and any sensible man who wants to know what his business is doing, and what he has accomplished from year to year, will study well the items in his accounts to know where his profits lie, if he has any profits, and from what source he derives the largest profits, and governs his commercial life accordingly. Now, we have, as I said before, two periods of the statistics of the country covering a term of twenty-three years, to study, and feeling myself that there was something pressing upon the country—something pressing upon the people that none could exactly tell or exactly locate, I have undertaken to analyse them for myself. I have always manfully stood up for the National Policy. I have always felt it was a sound policy, because under it our revenue was increased; but, hon. gentlemen, the fact that our Government went to Washington to negotiate a reciprocity treaty which was going back on the National Policy, and the fact of the Liberal party having adopted a more extreme reciprocity policy than our Government—and which was a step that I could not approve of—the fact that the two political parties were aiming at some change induced

me to study the question for myself and see where the trouble was—what effect the National Policy was having, and what change for the better for the people of Canada it was desirable we should make; and knowing that the census of 1891 had been completed, that we have the fullest statistics there as to what had been accomplished—that we had the statistics of 1881 and the statistics of 1871 before us, and the statistics from one year to the other handed down, compiled by the Liberal Government when it was in power, and by the Conservative Government when it was in power, we might fairly take these statistics and compare the figures, one decade with those of another decade. You cannot always gauge the prosperity of the people or the working of any particular policy by taking the returns of one year; but when you have ten years under one policy complete, and ten years under another policy complete, you have an opportunity of taking a fair average, and finding out from the comparison of these two decades what is working to the advantage, and what is to the disadvantage of the people of Canada. I have taken the trouble myself to carefully study the statistics of the country, adding them up, putting the first twelve years together, from 1868 to 1879, and then taking the second period between 1880 and 1890, and adding them up together, and comparing them one with another, and it is the result of these figures that I propose to lay before you in order that we may discuss in an intelligent form the proposition that is laid down here in the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General with regard to reciprocity negotiations. I have prepared a return, comparing the volume of trade between 1868 and 1879, inclusive, with that between the years 1880 and 1890—twelve years in one case and eleven in the other. Between the years 1868 and 1879 our total trade exports and imports amounted to \$2,086,000,000; between 1880 and 1890 the total exports and imports amounted to \$2,250,000,000. Dividing the two respective amounts into twelve parts on one hand, and eleven on the other, we find that the annual average of our total trade between 1868 and 1879 was \$174,000,000 a year, in round numbers; and between 1880 and 1890 it was \$205,000,000, in round numbers—that is, or an increase of \$28,000,000 a year during the second eleven years as compared with the first twelve years. Then, in the statistics there is brought down from year