

Hon. Mr. McCALLUM—Never mind the imports. We never buy more than we want.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—There is where you make a mistake. According to my argument my hon. friend says that as the reduction relates only to imports we need not be frightened. The fact that we are not importing is an evidence that the purchasing power of the people of Canada has been reduced by just so much as the imports have fallen off.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Supposing the prices of articles imported had been reduced 15 per cent or 20 per cent where would your calculation be then?

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I doubt if that is the case for the whole of the year.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It is the case, nevertheless. It is the reduction in value that explains the situation.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I find that our export trade has decreased \$5,000,000; that is to say, there has been labour in the country that has not been productive or employed to that extent.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH—Perhaps it is another case of increase in volume.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I do not think that the same causes can be assigned for the falling off in our exports.

Hon. Mr. McCALLUM—What about the wheat?

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—Our wheat has not been reduced below what it was the year before. Our North-western wheat, particularly, averaged a good price as compared with the wheat produced in the rest of the world, for which I am very thankful. The yield was of a remarkably good quality, and was eagerly sought after, not only by the people of the United States but by the people of Great Britain and the people of Canada as well. That competition assisted us materially in obtaining a much better price than was obtained by the wheat production of the world generally. However, what I wish to impress upon the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce is the fact that the present taxation is bearing heavily upon the people of Canada, which is a dire conse-

quence of the continuation of the commercial policy of the government. I find it here put into the mouth of His Excellency that the falling off of the revenue is caused by a reduction of taxation. No, the imports and the duties collected show that the taxation has increased under the tariff of 1894. In 1893 the average rate of taxation was 30 per cent; it is now, under the new tariff, 30·82 per cent, or very nearly 31 per cent. Now if this is the case, I say that it is a manifest injustice to increase taxation in the face of business depression. That policy should be changed and the taxation should be reduced. I say further, and I wish to impress this upon the members of the government who are in this House, that the taxation of the people of Canada is not merely the sum that is raised for the purposes of the revenue, but it is a tax multiplied twice, yes, three times over as a direct consequence of the protection that is afforded to the industries of the country. I wish to take this opportunity of proving that to the hon. the leader of the government in order that I may bring to bear upon him such views as I may be able to express, in the hope that that burden of taxation, which is excessive, which is pressing on the country, which is creating a great injustice and great injury in the western country where I reside, may be modified if not removed during the present session of Parliament. The present session should not end until they have reduced the tariff that was imposed in 1894, if they wished to do justice to the labouring men of the country—to those whose incomes are small—to those who are living by the sweat of their brow. If the government wish to do justice to the people from one end of Canada to the other, the leader of the government should seriously consider the question of reducing the burden of taxation raised by the tariff of 1894, by at least 25 per cent. It is not necessary to spend the session in going into details, but a general reduction of 25 per cent on the basis of the present tariff would be a wholesome reform and an indication that the government were prepared to confess sin of omission and commission under the experience of 17 years life under a high tariff. I wish to prove to hon. gentlemen there is room for it. We have here the census returns showing the manufacturing power of the country, most minute details as to all the manufactures which enter into the raw mate-