

those provinces. The price of pork was increased on the one hand, and the price of corn and molasses was reduced on the other. I have an objection to the National Policy on the ground that it places a very heavy embargo upon the exports of the farm products of this country. Now, the farmers of this country export a large number of potatoes, no less than 1,054,000 bushels. There is a duty imposed upon potatoes of 25 cents a bushel. I am not going to argue that the Canadian farmer loses the 25 cents, because that might be a matter of controversy. I will divide the duty in order to avoid that point of controversy, and I will say that he loses 15 cents. Now, 15 cents on 1,054,000 bushels is \$158,000, that, it will be admitted, the farmers of Canada lose upon their potatoes, which they would save if we had free trade with the Americans. Out of that \$158,000, \$112,000 comes out of the pockets of the farmers of that little Island from which my hon. friend the member for Queen's, P.E.I. (Mr. Davies) comes, or \$1 for every man, woman and child in that province. I cannot understand for the life of me how that little province elected two staunch Tories to support the Tory Government. Their little province produces over 7,000,000 bushels of potatoes, for which they have no other market in the world than the United States, with the exception of a few thousand bushels sent to Nova Scotia, when three-quarters of a million bushels of those potatoes go into the American markets upon which they cannot help but admit that the farmers lose 15 cents out of the 25 cents duty, and this encumbers their prosperity to the extent of \$112,000. Now, Sir, there is more, and I think the Minister of Finance, although he is busy now chatting about something else, would do much better to attend to some solid sense when it is delivered from this side of the House. Let me enlighten him in his further advances along the line which he intends to pursue before long. I will call his attention to the barley question. Now, there has always been a dispute in this House as to who pays the duty on barley. That question has all been settled last fall. You will remember when the McKinley Bill came into operation on the 6th of October, that for a whole month previous to that date, every farmer in this country was quickening his steps in order to get first to the owner of a threshing machine to engage him to bring his machine to his barn to thresh out his barley as early as possible. All the farmers were vying with each other as to who would get first to the owner of the threshing machine. Why any such hurry? Because the McKinley Bill was coming into operation on the 6th of October, and they wanted to get their barley threshed in order that they might get it to market before that date, and before the McKinley tariff reduced the price of their barley. That fact is enough to satisfy every man as to who pays the duty on the barley. These farmers were not acting from political bias, they were considering solely their own personal interests. Blind political partisanship was wiped away, they saw things in their true light, and then they came to the conclusion that they were losing that much money more on their barley than they got for it previous to the 6th of October. Barley in my town fell from the moment the McKinley Bill went into operation, 20 cents a bushel in one day. But we are told: Oh, the price rose afterwards and we got just as much after the Mc

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron).

Kinley Bill took effect as we did the year before. That is only begging the question. Barley was scarce in the United States the year before, the supply was not equal to the demand, and they were paying more on the other side than they did in the previous year, and that influenced the price to some extent in the Canadian market, and, therefore, to compare the price of the year before to the price of last year was no comparison at all, because the two prices were under different conditions altogether. Now, Sir, how much did the farmers lose on their barley? Counting the loss at 20 cents a bushel, in order to avoid discussion upon the point as to who pays the duty, they paid \$1,987,000 to get their barley into the American markets, or in other words the farmers would realize that much less by the effects of the McKinley Bill on an equal exportation to last year, namely, 1889-90. Then I come to eggs. We have heard a good deal about the egg market. The Minister of Finance has sent a gentleman to the old country to investigate the matter and to ascertain if it would be a profitable market for Canadian eggs. I think the agent brought back a favourable report; of course he was told to bring back a favourable report. But I am going to give you practical experiments. We have in our county the largest egg buyer, no doubt, in the Dominion of Canada. He ships annually 1,550,000 dozen. He tried the English markets as early as 1878, when he went there with 10,500 dozen, or over three hundred barrels, and he found on taking them there, that he lost \$5 on every barrel, losing \$1,500 on the experiment. A year ago last June he sent to the British market a carload of picked or selected eggs. Now, you will understand by picked eggs that they are selected according to size, the largest ones picked out and the smaller ones left behind, in order to have uniformity in size. He sent a carload to England in June, 1890, and he went to England so as to be there when the eggs arrived and push their sale. He says they came in good condition, there were very few breakages, and he sold them and realized a certain sum. On the same day he shipped a carload to the city of New York, consigned to his agent there, and told him to push the sale. He netted 4 cents a dozen more on the mixed eggs he sent to New York than he did on the picked eggs he sent to England. Now, there is a practical experience, and it is worth a whole ton of theory in regard to this matter. Now, Sir, we are told that we are getting as high a price this year as we were last year for our eggs, and the markets of Canada are quoted last year and the corresponding markets this year. That is begging the question. In order to ascertain whether we are getting as much as we should get, we should compare the markets of last year in Toronto and in New York, and see the difference in the margin. I find a difference in the margin last year of from 2 to 2½ cents, which is sufficient to send them to market and dispose of them. In the markets to-day we find the margin runs from 4½ to 6½ cents, making an average of 5½. Taking 2½ from 5½ leaves 3 cents that the Canadian farmer loses by the action of the McKinley Bill upon the egg trade. Sir, I have here a letter from one of the dealers in the County of Huron, and he says that he sent one lot of eggs to the English market this summer, but he has received no return yet. He has sent several lots to the American market this year, and he received 12 cents and 12½