

to 1891, and showed by his figures that the profits were 33.06 per cent; in other words, that the profits of the manufacturers of this country had been reduced 50 per cent in twenty years. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) went on to show us that the manufacturers were making a very large percentage in profits, and that, in fact, they were extracting money, not only from the pockets, but from the faces of the people of this country; and that they were making a profit of 33½ per cent, which he thought was something almost criminal. Now, Sir, I shall leave himself and the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) to reconcile these two statements. One hon. member says the profit has decreased from 73 per cent to 33½ per cent, and the other hon. gentleman states that under the National Policy the manufacturers are taking millions and millions of dollars out of the people of this country. Now, Mr. Speaker, probably every member addressing this House might feel that his own particular locality is the one that he should confine his remarks more particularly to. The coal industry is the principal industry in the locality in which I reside. I have not heard one hon. gentleman on the other side of the House state that if the Liberals came into power, the duty would be left upon coal. We have had an experience of free coal from 1871 or 1872 to 1879. The development and prosperity of the coal industry not only affects the immediate localities where the mines are situated, but it affects the whole province of Nova Scotia so far as its commerce is concerned. Large sums are paid to the men in wages; our schooners and steamers are profitably employed, and a large number of men are engaged, not only in the mines, but in handling the coal around the shipping piers. In the clusters of villages around the coal mines, the people of the surrounding country are enabled to find a very profitable market, which if destroyed in any way would injure the agricultural prospects in many counties of Nova Scotia. In addition to that, the revenue derived from the coal by the local government is very material, and it would be greatly affected if the duty were taken off coal and its production lessened. In 1878 the royalty collected on coal in Nova Scotia was \$50,531.07, while for the nine months of 1893, the royalty collected was \$174,810.07. The amount estimated by the Provincial Secretary for the year ending 1879—I cannot get access to the journals for that year, so as to show what it realized—but the amount estimated was \$60,000 of revenue from this source, while in 1894 the Provincial Secretary estimated that the revenue from coal royalty would be \$250,000. While the hon. member for Antigonish (Mr. McIsaac) was addressing the House last night, I was thinking that perhaps if the revenue of the province of Nova Scotia had remained

as it was in 1878, there would be grave doubts that that hon. gentleman would now be sitting in the House. With an increase from \$50,000 to \$250,000 in coal royalties, the Government of Nova Scotia have been able to deal very liberally with respect to roads and bridges in the province. The county which my hon. friend represents was not forgotten, and I have no doubt that that was a very large element in contributing to his success in the various elections from 1876 to 1895. I doubt very much if the hon. gentleman (Mr. McIsaac) would have had a seat in this House were it not for the increase in revenue which enabled the provincial government to expend a considerable amount of money on roads and bridges in his county. We all know what advantage the local members in the province of Nova Scotia can reap from this expenditure, and the material assistance which it gives them in their elections. I am not finding particular fault with the hon. member for Antigonish (Mr. McIsaac). I am not aware of anything he has done personally with reference to this, but I know as a general rule, when \$30,000 or \$40,000 is voted for a county to build bridges, and \$20,000 or \$30,000 to repair the roads, and when it is absolutely under the control of the local member representing the county, it is an element with which we have to contend at every election.

Mr. McISAAC. How much was voted last year for the county of Antigonish on roads and bridges?

Mr. McDONALD (Victoria). I do not know the estimate.

Mr. McISAAC. Not one dollar.

Mr. McDONALD (Victoria). Oh, well. I know how it is. I think that the hon. member for Antigonish (Mr. McIsaac) probably acted more wisely than they did in the county I have the honour to represent. The amount was large and the people were needy in Victoria, and they were promised large sums, and I think that the amount was completely used up. But I do not believe that the hon. member for Antigonish (Mr. McIsaac) did that because I think he had a reserve. If I am not mistaken, I hardly believe that he would use it up in so short a time as the members in other counties did. I am not finding fault with the hon. member, but what I mean to say is this: If the Government of Nova Scotia were confined to the \$50,531.07 bounty from coal which they received in 1878, I believe that it would not be so easy for their supporters to find their way to the local assembly or to the Dominion Parliament as well. Now, Mr. Speaker, a great deal has been said by gentlemen opposite in reference to the corruption of the Conservative Government, but I will leave it to gentlemen on the other side who may follow me, to tell the House and the country what benefit accrue to Canada