

was to the farmers. He said that the exports of farm produce had risen from \$50,591,000 to \$114,441,000, and he made the boast that this was all due to the wise policy of this government. I have taken pains to look into some of the figures. In 1896 the exports of butter from this country amounted to \$1,118,768 and in 1903 to \$6,958,906. I remember that nearly ten years ago the Minister of Agriculture, under the Conservative administration, brought down a proposition to have a considerable sum of money voted in order to purchase butter to be shipped to the old country. It was pointed out by him that we had not made a fair entry of our butter in the old country market, and that there we had to meet the bitter competition of Danish and other European butter, and that if we wished to compete in the markets of Europe it was necessary to send a good sample there. What was the outcry of gentlemen opposite? They cried that the government were going into the grocery business, which was an absurdity. Despite the protests and jeers a large quantity of butter was shipped to the old country, a footing was established there, and as a result we have had the gratification of seeing the butter trade of Canada increase by over \$5,000,000 in the short space of something like seven years.

These are the gentlemen who, to-day, after decrying the butter of Canada and the chance of working up that trade in the old country are claiming the credit and the benefit of these large shipments. Take next the question of cheese. What have these hon. gentlemen had to do with the matter of the export of cheese? In 1896, there was an export of cheese amounting to \$14,283,825. That export, last year, had risen to \$24,776,406. What had hon. gentlemen opposite to do with the cheese industry? This industry was commenced a number of years ago. It was bound to increase owing to the fact that the Canadian farmer was producing a first-class article. The trade has gone on increasing and these hon. gentlemen were simply, to use the old phrase, flies on the wheel and do what they would they could not stop the increase in the export of the butter or cheese of this country. Then take the question of meats. In 1896, there was an export of about \$4,000,000. A matter of history is the opposition offered by these hon. gentlemen when the high protective tariff was placed on bacon. It was announced that there was a possibility of building up a large export trade in bacon and hams from this country. That was bitterly assailed by hon. gentlemen opposite; yet, that trade has gone on and prospered and we now see an increase of from about \$4,000,000 to about \$15,456,286 in the matter of meats alone. Perhaps the most marked increase that we have had in the matter of agricultural products has been in the export of oats, wheat and flour. If there is one question upon which hon. gen-

tlemen opposite should be silent it is a question of our increased exports in that regard. What is the reason that, to-day, we have an export of wheat to the amount of nearly \$30,000,000 as against \$8,000,000 seven years ago? This is the export of the great Northwest and it is not due to the fact that this country has spent hundreds and thousands of dollars in bringing a lot of Galicians and Doukhobors into the country, but it is owing to the fact that this country has been sending a large number of the best men of Ontario and the other older provinces to the Northwest, that they have taken advantage of the fertility of the soil of the prairies and moreover a great portion of the export of the last two years is due to the fact that the western states have been filling up and that we find farmers from that part of the country coming into the Northwest and taking up farms there. If these hon. gentlemen opposite ask the farmers of this country to believe that they have had anything to do with the development of the Northwest Territories, they must imagine that they are talking to a lot of people who are very innocent indeed. It is a notorious fact that the speeches of hon. gentlemen opposite decrying the Northwest Territories were actually printed in the literature of the transportation companies of the United States and heralded all over Europe. These hon. gentlemen who denounced the Northwest Territories as being an inhospitable plain and opposed the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, now seeing the development that has taken place in that country as the result of the efforts of the Conservative party, come forward and seek to claim the credit. In the matter of oats there has been an increase in the exports of nearly \$2,000,000. A great part of these oats, no doubt, have been grown in the Northwest Territories. There has been a considerable development in the trade in flour, because, in 1896, we only exported \$895,000 worth while last year we exported \$4,700,000 worth. Then, coming to the question of cattle, it is a well-known fact that we have a large number of cattle being fed on the prairies of the west. Any gentleman who has paid a visit to that country must have been struck by seeing the large trains coming out loaded down with fattened beasts. We have had an increase in the export of cattle to the amount of \$4,000,000. When these hon. gentlemen take the export trade of the country, when they added it up and arrive at the aggregate they find that there has been a development of nearly \$25,000,000 in the export of lumber. What have these hon. gentlemen had to do with lumber exports? Nothing whatever. That has been a circumstance, a something that happened that they were utterly powerless to deal with. Every hon. gentleman in this House knows that the supply of lumber in the United States has been gradually lessening, and every hon. gentleman knows