

mor) met them, that such taxes would be increased; their statement was that they were going to readjust the tariff. The result was that the people gave them a very large majority. As to the public works undertaken by the late Government, he did not know of any considerable extent, except the Chambly Canal, and St. Peter's Canal in Nova Scotia, and the Dufferin breakwater, the largest in New Brunswick. Those were all they had undertaken; therefore, he thought that the Finance Minister could not truly state that the embarrassed condition of the country was due to the late Government. Such talk might gain him, however, the sympathy of the public in his present difficult position. He had got what he worked for; and, if the country was financially depressed, and required a large revenue, he and his associates were the men who brought about that state of things. In saying this he (Mr. Gillmor) knew that nothing he could say—that not the best logic and greatest eloquence—could change a vote on this question. The question of Free-trade and Protection had been laboured to death; the views and statistics exposed to decry Free-trade simply amounted to nothing. The people would judge of the question for themselves. He had listened to able and eloquent arguments last Session, from the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Colly), and, this Session, from the hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Ives), in favour of Protection; if their premises had been sound, which they weren't, their deductions would have been conclusive. But they had not, because unsound, convinced him. He believed Protection was wrong in principle, and no amount of argument or reasons could make it right. It had been proved, by practical experience, incorrect. He knew the effect of Free-trade in Great Britain, and he thought the best evidence that Free-trade was correct was its adoption by the Mother Country, by statesmen who understood the question much better than Canadian Protectionists. Everybody knew that England's advance in wealth, commerce, manufacturing, and trade, since the adoption of Free-trade, had astonished the world. The United States prosperity, of late, had been much talked of; but there was no comparison between it and that of England, which

had exported last year \$1,250,000,000 of manufactures—that being about the annual volume of her trade in this department. She sent her manufactures to every country, town, and hamlet on the face of the globe. Protection had not given her that prosperity. In order to succeed in a similar way, Canadians must adopt the principle that would render articles cheaper here than they could be made anywhere else. Talk about Protectionist victories in the United States, because the Americans might send a little cotton to Manchester and hardware to Sheffield, for an experiment, when England exported to the States twelve million dollars' worth more of her manufactures than they sent to all the world besides? Talk about England being outdone in the markets of the world. It was absurd. It suited hon. gentlemen on the Ministerial side to harp upon the topic of American superiority; it would not be strange if, in time, the Americans should be able to compete with Great Britain in some particular manufactured article, but that would not be an argument for her return to Protection. Look on the two systems as regards their effects on United States commerce. How was it that, during a revenue tariff in the United States, they had vessels enough of their own to carry the larger proportion of their imports and exports to and from foreign countries—70 to 90 per cent.? What was the result of Protection? That they carried but 26 per cent. of that trade now; the most money-making part—the carrying trade—having been transferred to foreigners. With regard to the depression, he believed that, though not a great many were rich, there was less real poverty and suffering in the Dominion than in any other country. But, under this tariff, they were going to have no poverty at all. During previous Sessions the idle workmen of Ottawa would come to the then Minister of Public Works (Mr. Mackenzie) for relief, and, when it was refused, he (Mr. Gillmor) would hear some one in the crowd cry, "Hurrah for Sir John A. Macdonald!" That was the object of such demonstrations, and they had their effect. There was no danger of Great Britain so long as she adhered to Free-trade—nor was there any danger of her return to Protection. She occupied the