

have been lately. I accompanied them to see the capacity of their mills, and to ascertain the extent of their operations, and I found that they were in a very flourishing and satisfactory condition. Then, in Dundas, we found cotton mills in a most flourishing condition; we found that the tool factory was in a good condition. In the oatmeal mill we found them grinding for the home market, and also doing a large quantity of work for the export trade. Though I did not visit the St. John market, as suggested by the member for Queen's, I met with gentlemen representing the agricultural interest in various parts of the Dominion, and I may say that, notwithstanding all that has been said to dissatisfy the farmers and make them believe that their tea is taxed more than formerly; that their sugar costs more than formerly, under the new tariff; that all the articles they purchase, such as cotton and woollen goods, cost more, and that they themselves get no benefit whatever, let me say this: they appeared satisfied. I met a gentleman in Toronto, engaged in the grain trade. He was on the other side of politics. He admitted that he had an increased demand for Canadian oats, for a portion of the Dominion, formerly supplied from the United States, and he said, "We are now supplying Canadian oats, and Canadian oats alone." He also said, speaking for the farmer, whatever else the National Policy may have done, it has benefitted him. I was a little surprised to hear the statement made that, because our harvest had been a magnificent one during the past year, and because the farmers had been directing their attention to the fattening of cattle for the English market, and thus causing an increase of exports, it was argued that the home market for the farmer had not been increased. We know there is no way in which the farmer would be more directly benefitted than by the increase of the home market, which must necessarily be improved for farm products, by the development of the manufacturing industries of the country. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) made a speech in which he called attention especially to agricultural products. His arguments have not been answered. He showed, step by step, the increase which had taken place in the price of agricultural produce, and the great benefit the farmers of the Dominion derived from the operation of the tariff, and, with the home market for perishable articles, was largely increased. Then, my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition, or some other hon. member, read from my speech, and criticised my reference to the fact that this year our exports are likely to equal our imports. He also read from my speech in which I pointed out, in 1873, that our imports were considerably in excess of our exports. He read a statement by which I undertook to show that, from the freights we receive from our ships and from various other sources, we would make up, to a considerable extent, the difference between the exports and