

and I have no doubt that in many cases they preferred making a sacrifice to doing that. The hon. gentleman said that there was \$1,200,000 difference between the exports of manufactures in 1878 and those in 1880.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant) — A decrease of \$885,000.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY — \$885,000 was the decrease, of which \$700,000 odd was the sale of ships. What was the fact? In 1872, 1873, and 1874 our shipping industry was most prosperous; many men who had means and many men who had not much means, but had credit, invested in ships, but down to 1878 the trade was decreasing year after year, and in many cases these ships were yielding no profit, and men on the other side of the water who had mortgages on the ships, finding that there was no probability of their being paid, came down to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Prince Edward Island in 1878, and compelled many ship-owners to close up their accounts and transfer many of their ships. Then a large number of vessels in 1878 were sold to Norway. Under a provision of the Plimsoll bill, our ships, detained at Liverpool or some other English port, had to submit to regulations which were not imposed on foreign vessels, and I know of some parties who transferred their ships to Norway in order that they might not be subject to the operations of the Plimsoll bill, and I have no doubt that a great many of the ships said to have been sold to Norway were transferred for that purpose. I admit that in 1880 the tonnage of ships constructed in Canada was less than that of 1878; we know the reason: there is less demand for wooden ships, because iron ships are taking their place, and if there is anything demanded of the Government and Parliament of this country, it is that they should devise some means by which the shipbuilders and mechanics formerly engaged in the construction of ships in this country may be employed. I refer to this subject just now because my hon. friend endeavored, before we had started on our march, to make a flank movement upon us, which I am happy to say did not succeed.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant) — It is because you were so late in delivering your budget speech — sixty-nine days up to the present.