

sent policy that prevails in this country, to take up and champion the farmer. One would suppose, to hear the speeches made in the different representative bodies in this country by the opponents of the Government, and more particularly by those who indulge in this kind of argument out of doors, on the stump or when addressing the people, that the poor unfortunate farmer of this country had become so reduced in his ability to produce from the soil or from the forest or any other source, or in the manufacturing industries of cheese and butter, as to deserve the commiseration of the people of this country. Notwithstanding all that has been said about him, we find that it is in that particular branch of industry in this country that the greatest progress has taken place, giving evidence of two facts—first, that they are producing more from the soil and from the industries which they pursue, and also that they have become richer than they were before. Whether it be the result of the present policy or not, the pleasing fact is made clear that they are better off to-day, for the reason that they are producing and exporting more, and consequently receiving more,—unless the prices have become so low that there is no profit, which is a matter absolutely beyond either their or our control. So when these people are represented as labouring under enormous taxation we have but one conclusion, with these trade figures before us, at which to arrive: That they are better off to-day, progressing more rapidly and doing better than at any other period in their existence. The next item is that of lumber. As my hon. friend says, our export trade depends in a great measure upon the requirements of the foreign market, and that it might have increased is not to be wondered at, but was just in proportion to the demands both in England and Europe, and the United States. In manufactures there has been also an increase of three quarters of a million dollars, a matter which is to me, believing as I do, firmly in the correctness of the policy which has been in existence in Canada for the last fifteen years, gratifying in the extreme. I am gratified for many reasons. First, it shows we are producing in this country an article which can compete successfully in other portions of the world against other manufacturers. As the hon. leader remarked yesterday, it must have been pleasing to me to learn, when in the antipodes

last fall, that our manufacturers were successfully competing there. I can assure him that it was. One establishment in Ontario made its first exportation to that country about five years ago, when they were laughed at, and when Canada was looked upon as an outside part of the world situated somewhere near the North Pole—some of them had scarcely heard of it. He was told to take his five machines that he had taken to that country back again, that they could not be sold; but with that true enterprise which characterizes the people of this country—and by the way he was a Nova Scotian from Cape Breton—he said, “I came here to sell these articles, and I propose to sell them or give them away.” He was urged not to undertake it. Why? Because the agent of the MacCormick Machinery Company desired to keep the whole of that market. He succeeded in selling the five machines; the following year he sold twenty-five, and last year he put on that market together with mowers and other agricultural implements and parts thereof, 8,000, and sold them all. If that can be done through enterprise and energy, why should not we protect them until they are enabled to compete in other markets? I know my hon. friend will say “if they can afford to manufacture them in this country and send them abroad, why do they need protection.” I will tell him why? They require protection for the same reason that protection was given to manufacturers in England in the olden times and in the United States in later times—until they had acquired a position which enabled them to compete in every market. I am glad to know that the Canadian people are possessed with as much energy and “push” to use an American expression, as any people in the world. I look forward at no distant day to see not only the distant colonies of Australia, but the different islands of the Pacific, supplied by the manufacturers of this country with as good articles as can be produced in any other part of the world. And what is more gratifying—the manufacturers under that protective tariff which my hon. friend condemned so earnestly yesterday, have been enabled to attain a position of wealth and to acquire the skill and efficiency to compete with others in outside markets. When I was urging this system of reciprocal relations between New South Wales and Canada, in talking with the Premier and the Finance