

wise policy that has been inaugurated and carried out by my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture. I think the time will soon arrive when we shall be able to occupy as prominent a position in the English market in butter as we do in cheese. We are encouraging these industries to such an extent that we expect to inundate the English market with our dairy produce. See the enormous quantity of dairy products that are consumed in England! The English market will take all that we can raise, even if we continue to increase our production as rapidly in the next twenty years as we have increased it in the past ten years. I have no fear as to the future of this country. When you tell us, as we have been told on every stump, that the value of farm property is decreasing, and that farming is not as profitable as it has been in the past, and that the cause of it is the National Policy, and the protection of our industries, let me refer the hon. gentleman to the condition of England to-day, where land is going to waste or into pasturage. That is the condition of the farming industry in free trade England. Let me call his attention to the speech on that very question made recently by Lord Salisbury, in which he admitted the fact that the free trade policy of England had ruined the agricultural interests of that country. What did he give as the reason for pursuing a free trade policy? He said the lesser must give way to the greater. He said that the great mass of the British people demanded free trade and food as cheap as it could possibly be obtained in any part of the world, and therefore the agricultural industry had to suffer for the benefit of the great mass of the people. Apply that same logic to Canada and what follows? The agricultural community of Canada are the great mass of the people. There are more people engaged in that industry than in any other. If we are to adopt Lord Salisbury's principle and carry it out in this country, the lesser has to give way for the greater by adopting a trade policy that will foster agricultural industries, and so you might pursue this argument for hours. I can show, and prove by statistics, that lands in England have fallen proportionately far lower in value than farm lands have in Canada. There are many reasons for the decreased value of farm lands in the older provinces of this country. We have opened up for settlement

millions of acres of land in the North-west. We know that from 15 to 25 millions of bushels of wheat have been produced annually in that part of Canada of late years, and this grain has come into competition with the grain produced in other parts of the Dominion. We know also that there has been a vast production of that great staple of life, wheat, in Australia, Russia and other countries, and that it has been exported in large quantities to England, reducing the price, and necessarily the price of the land on which wheat is grown has diminished in this country. There is no use in attempting to hide that fact. To attribute the decrease to the fact that a duty of 15c. a bushel has been imposed on wheat, and 20 per cent ad valorem on cotton, and 30 per cent on iron or other articles, is to give utterance to opinions which, I scarcely believe, the hon. gentleman has any faith in himself. Compare the position of Canada to-day with that of any other country. When we see the Australian colonies with scarcely a bank that has not broken, and when we look across the border and find that three or four hundred of their banking institutions have gone to the wall, while we in Canada have stood firm through the whole crisis and not a single bank has closed its doors, I think we have reason to be proud of our country. You may depreciate it as much as you please; you may attempt to attribute whatever depression exists in Canada at the present moment to the operation of the National Policy, but I venture this assurance that if you had not had the National Policy for the last fifteen or sixteen years, this country would be in an infinitely worse position than it is to-day.

Hon. Mr. McINNIS (B.C.)—I fully concur in all that has been said by every hon. gentleman who has spoken here this afternoon with respect to the great loss that Canada has sustained by the tragic death of the late premier, Sir John Thompson. I also congratulate the House that again we have the premier of Canada in this chamber, and I congratulate the hon. gentleman who leads the Senate, and the government, on the honours which have been bestowed upon our premier. I also congratulate the hon. gentleman who occupies the seat to his left (Mr. Ferguson) at this moment, in having been chosen one of Her Majesty's Privy Councillors for Canada. But, while I congratulate the