

further must be added for the reduction at the retail stores, so that you will find that the measure of the reduction of the burdens of the people in respect of sugar, is almost \$5,000,000. I state this as a manifest truth, and place it against the statement of the member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) that the sugar refiners had received the advantage of \$2,000,000. I know that the president of the Moncton Sugar Refinery telegraphed Tuesday night to his people to sell granulated at a reduction of 2 cents a lb., and that in Montreal it was announced that granulated sugar had gone down to 4½ cents. The conclusion that I arrive at is that a reduction has taken place of 1½ to 1¾ cents upon yellow sugar, and of 2 cents on granulated sugars. The hon. gentleman says that we have not removed the taxes on sugar, because the taxes have not been entirely taken away, and that some protection has been left for the refiners in this country, but I contend that the protection which is left to our refiners is less than it was under the polariscope tariff of 1886.

Mr. MULOCK. How much reduction is there?

Mr. WELDON. There is a reduction of about 16 cents on the 100 pounds. The ex-Finance Minister says that protection is still given to the refiners. It does not suit him to have the sugar refined in this country. If the Finance Minister had taken off the duty and at the same time had smashed the sugar refineries with their thousands of employes, counting those who work in the refineries and in the subsidiary trades which they need, he would, no doubt, have applauded him. Our idea was to continue to give those people employment and not to drive them away to the country to the south of us. I want to make another flat contradiction of a statement made by the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright). He says:

"We have the maximum of loss to the revenue, and the maximum of advantage to these monopolists. On every pound of sugar which the poorest man consumes, he will have to pay not into the public treasury, but to the sugar refiners eight-tenths of a cent."

I deny that statement. If the hon. gentleman will turn to the tariff, article 2, page 277 of the Votes and Proceedings, he will see that it says that all sugar at and below 14 Dutch standard comes in free, and that which comes in at 14 Dutch standard is a very excellent yellow sugar which we in the Lower Provinces have used very largely. A sugar known as Cuba crystals, which tests as high by the polariscope as 96 degrees, and therefore is nearly a perfect sugar, though a trifle brown in colour comes in free under the present tariff. Then there are Muscovadoes, which will come in free, and thus any poor man can protect himself against any attempt on the part of the refiners to put anything like eight-tenths of a cent a pound on sugar by any combine they might make. The hon. gentleman's statement is not founded on fact. And the truth is that the great bulk of this sugar will come in absolutely free, and this is a protection against any extortion on the part of the refiners. Hon. gentlemen would like the restoration of the old system. I will not at present touch upon the question of free trade against protection, but later on I will deal with that on its merits. Speaking of the low grades of sugar, I might say that last night an hon. gentleman who is interested in the sugar trade, and particularly in the kind which I have referred to as

Cuba crystals, informed me that it was selling yesterday, in Halifax, at 3¼ cents, and that Muscovadoes were selling yesterday, in Halifax, at 2½ cents. We noticed that the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright), in his speech the other night was lacking in his usual vigour, though not in his usual despondency and gloom. The tariff was altogether too much for him, and the cheers with which it was greeted from these benches were the precursor of the cheers with which it will be greeted from the Atlantic to the Pacific. For the benefit of the members of this House who are here for the first time, and who have been too busy and too well employed to read the Budget speeches of the hon. member for South Oxford for the last twelve years, let me say that his speech on Tuesday night presented no very new features. There were some of his old predictions, some of his old boasts, omitted. We heard no more of the old story that the tariff could not do its work in raising a revenue without being prohibitive, but most of the old points came out again; they were made much in the old spirit, though in a spirit, perhaps, of deeper gloom and despondency than ever before. As he spoke, one was reminded of the old English divine, who, speaking of his own country, said: "The man who goes about in this country telling the people they are not as well governed as they ought to be, is a man who will soon find a large audience." And upon that statement of the judicious Hooker I would like to add this commentary: that the man who goes about this country for seventeen years making the same gloomy statement, will find at last that he will lose his audience—and that is precisely the position of the hon. member, for I noticed that neither the members behind him nor the members in front of him, on Tuesday night, paid very much regard to what the hon. gentleman said. He gave us a short lamentation on the balance of trade, although, as he said it, it was in the way of taunt rather than as declaring his own belief. As to the balance of trade, the figures, as that hon. gentleman gave them, proved nothing more than this, that the exports, which are recorded in the blue-books, are too low, and every man who studies the export tables in our blue books and in American blue-books, know they are too low—they are too low in the case of all countries where there are no export duties. We can easily test that by comparing our exports to the United States, for example, with their recorded imports from Canada; by our record of exports to the British Islands, with their record of imports from Canada. Our table of exports bulks too low, because of the fact that the Custom-house officers are not very particular in making up the figures. I say, secondly, our exports in the blue-book are but the product of Canadian capital and Canadian labour on our Canadian land, and, as we know, that must be supplemented and added to by the products of Canadian capital and Canadian labour on the sea; and if those things be added together, you will find the purchasing power of the things that Canada has to sell to foreign countries is large enough to pay for all our imports, and to pay interest on our debt, and that is what is required to make a sound commercial condition. In one breath the hon. member for South Oxford complained of excessive taxation in this country. That was the old story, it was the automatic action of a man who had prepared his speech before he had heard of