

On the Intercolonial Railway, I have understood, that the wages of trackmen have been reduced ten cents; but this, I believe, has not been the case with officials having large salaries; which, on the contrary, are said to have been increased. This road is entirely under the control of one man—an unfortunate fact for the Maritime Provinces, because he has managed to ruin all the industries along the line by altering its tariff of rates.

An Hon. Member—Who is he?

Mr. PALMER—Mr. Brydges.

Our mechanics also complain that the work done along the road is not let by tender as formerly, Mr. Brydges, it appears, discovered what mechanics in New Brunswick would perform it for; and in about a fortnight afterwards it was undertaken by persons hailing from the United States, or Ontario, or some other Province, at their own prices. Then, of course, they referred to the old files of the *Globe*, and observing that Mr. Brydges was there abused as guilty of all sorts of crimes, and of all kinds of jobbery, stories were circulated that he was interested in the execution of these works. This system, which was very bad, should be changed, and tenders should be invited. I would support any Government measure that would make the necessities of life as low in price as possible, and foster our manufactures, but not to the detriment of any other class of our population. The present tariff in many respects is destructive not only to our industries, but to the production of raw material, and it should be revised. The exhibition at St. Johns last year showed that our manufactures were in a very high state of cultivation. The manufacturers and mechanics of St. Johns have passed the following resolution:—

“Whereas, during the present depressed state of trade, the manufacturers and mechanics of St. Johns feel more than ever the necessity of an increased protective tariff to enable them to compete successfully with foreign markets,

“Resolved, That we, the manufacturers and mechanics of St. John's, do memorialize the Dominion Government to increase the duties on all imported articles which come into

“direct competition with domestic manufactures.”

I may not go to this extent, but they are familiar with their own business and form a numerous body; and of course they share the sentiments of my hon. friend from Montreal West.

I would be very much pleased if the resolution of my hon. friend was drawn up in different shape, but I can certainly go with him as far as the revision of the tariff, in any direction that would afford relief to the manufacturers of this Dominion, is concerned. I would look for such advantages first in every other way possible; I would allow every article that enters into their productions to be admitted free of duty; I would favour the cheapening of the cost of labour and of all their materials; but I do not say I would stop there, though I certainly should do so unless I was thoroughly convinced that such manufactures could ultimately succeed in this country, and such articles be made here as cheaply as elsewhere; therefore, if I cannot vote for this resolution, I shall seize the first opportunity afforded to offer a motion which I can support. I am not at all disposed to treat these manufacturers and mechanics with derision; for their case demands and ought to receive the serious consideration of the Government and of this House, which, as far as possible, should alleviate the depressed condition of every one of our suffering industries; and the Government which refuses to extend such aid, refuses to discharge the duty of a Government to the country over whose destinies it presides.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Inverness)—Having spoken at some length at a previous stage of this discussion, I would not have taken part in the debate now but for the remarks of the hon. member for Stanstead. The hon. gentleman referred to a few words I used on a former occasion.

Mr. COLBY—I made no reference whatever to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. MACDONNELL—The hon. gentleman, in a discourteous manner, said the manufacturers had been stigmatized as paupers, because they came here and asked for protection. On that occasion

Mr. PALMER.