

1875, were about \$26,000,000; and if we leave out boot and shoe makers, who were practically without any foreign competition, the manufacturer did not fail for more than 2 per cent. of this amount. I will venture the prediction, if a matter in itself so certain can be called a prediction, that another crisis must produce a very different result. Why did our manufacturers pass so successfully through the last crisis? Because they have grown up to meet the requirements of the country. They adjusted themselves to the local needs of the population, and their productions in but few instances exceeded the minimum requirements of their customers. The variable complement was the foreign import. In 1878, our boot and shoe manufacturers supplied 91 per cent.; the woollen manufacturers, 85 per cent. in their own lines. Saddle and harness makers, 99 per cent.; carriage manufacturers, 99 per cent.; merchant tailors, 95 per cent.; the manufacturers of agricultural implements, at least 95 per cent. Now there is not much room left in those industries for expansion beyond what is afforded by the growth of the country in wealth and in population. I say, apart altogether from the question of injustice done by duties in excess of the public requirements, you are misdirecting the capital of the country. We have only to look at the Trade and Navigation Returns to see how much the purchasing power of the country varies. In 1873, our foreign trade amounted to nearly \$218,000,000. In 1879, the most gloomy year since Confederation, it was \$64,000,000 less. Now, there was a corresponding difference in our domestic and interprovincial trade; that is, a variation equal to 25 per cent. If we produce to the full extent of our market in years of prosperity, is it not evident that, in a year of depression, there must be great industrial disturbances? The number of employes in the more wealthier mills and factories will be diminished, and many of the weaker establishments will be closed. Is it nothing to have a large fixed population thrown out of employment? Is it nothing to have a large amount of capital, which, at frequently recurring intervals of time, is left wholly unproductive? Yet it is towards this destination we are hastily advancing, and the more apparent the success of the hon. gentleman's policy, the more certain is it that disaster must come. If our manufacturers had been allowed to obtain a safe foothold at home, if they had been allowed to manufacture under such favorable circumstances that they could have felt their way securely into foreign markets, then they would themselves, by crossing the frontier barriers, have protected their interests against the dangers of a contracted domestic market. I need not say more upon this point. We have no feeling of hostility to the manufacturing classes. We