

Trade and Navigation Returns, we must conclude that it is only natural and inevitable that there should be a considerable reduction in the total demand for the latter also. It must be further borne in mind that were we to impose a high tariff we would have to impose a high tariff all round; and that if we impose a high tariff all round it will assuredly affect, and affect largely, the general cost of production of the very manufactures which are thus protected. This effect has been produced time and again and is actually the case at this moment in the United States, where many of the ablest manufacturers are convinced, from the extent to which the cost of production has increased from this cause, that they would be able to manufacture more cheaply and make more money if they had the tariff reduced to something like an equality with ours. There is no interest in this country which more deserves the favourable consideration of the Government than the lumber interest, and I have not yet received one demand for protection from the able and intelligent representatives of that industry in this House. Whether it is to come or not I do not know; but this much I may observe, that the imposition of a high tariff would certainly affect them very seriously, and that those who are engaged in that great industry have an interest in this matter quite apart from that of the persons who are now demanding an increase in the tariff. It may be well to remind some of my honourable friends that if we were to undertake a general and thorough revision of the tariff we might find it necessary to do a little levelling down as well as a little levelling up. They must recollect that there are several very important articles on which the tariff is at present all but prohibitory, and I must caution them that it might be exceedingly difficult to get the Legislature to avoid the conclusion that there was no reason for exceptional favour being shown to the producers of those articles. Up to the present time our tariff has been substantially a revenue tariff, but it is noteworthy that as our country grows older the tariff, even if unaltered, tends always to become more protective, and that a tariff which a few years ago might have admitted foreign articles freely, may, with the growth of the country, become prohibitory in a short time. Then we have to consider a little the rate of the taxation which the people of this country at present labour under. As compared with that which prevails in other countries, and especially in many other