

refusal of the Government to protect our industries and place them on an equal footing with the industries of the United States, has resulted in the ruin of many branches. Many of the manufactories in Montreal have been closed, and those that are not closed are only struggling on keeping their workmen employed in hopes of better times. It is said it is not the interest of the manufacturers alone, but the general interests of all classes of the community, that should be taken into consideration first. I would ask this honorable House if the twenty millions of dollars that have been lost by our manufacturers in consequence of the drawbacks given to American manufacturers by the United States Government, has benefitted our consumers? Has it benefitted the agriculturists and consumers of this country? Certainly not; because it has been remarked that undue competition has not had the effect of lowering the prices of the products the manufactures of which have been destroyed in this country. Since our sugar refinery has been closed we have to pay a higher price for sugar than we had before. It is the same for tea. If this has been loss to our manufacturers and trade, and has not been a benefit to our consumers, it follows that it must have been gain to the manufacturers of the United States, and a total loss for our country. I think it will be admitted that the richest countries are those that have the greatest variety of productions and who do not have to depend upon other nations for the wants of the community. The richest country would be the one, though not excelling in any one branch, would have all branches developed to a sufficient extent to render that country independent of any other country, and to allow it to export more than it imported. There is a great example before the world in that of the French nation, which, though not excelling in quantity in any particular branch of industry, has been least effected by the general crisis of the world. After paying an enormous war indemnity, capital is more abundant in France to-day than in any other country in the world, and this, I think, is due to the fact that all resources of that country have been developed to a sufficient extent to allow it to export almost all kinds of products. It is hard that the Government have not even a single word of consolation or encouragement for our manufacturers. After having killed them the least he could do would have been to tell them by way of consolation, that he would bury them decently. One honorable gentleman has gone so far as to say that because the

Government have not said anything about the depression, it is a proof that the depression exists no more. It reminds one of the French dramatist who represents one of his heroes whose family were starving. He would go out and provide for his own wants and said: "When my stomach is full, I hold that nobody is hungry in my house." I have some questions to put to the honorable Minister of Agriculture, but I do not see him in his place. I would ask the honorable Secretary of State if his colleague will be present to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The honorable gentleman is temporarily absent from the Chamber.

Hon. Mr. TRUDEL—In his absence I will not go further, but postpone what has reference to him. I would now refer to the Pacific Railway policy. The honorable Secretary of State will remember last year this side of the House was considered as not acting fairly by the Government because it voted censure on their Pacific Railway policy; but a few weeks after the Government told this House that they themselves had condemned their own Pacific Railway policy. This season the people of Quebec expected that at least the section of the railway adjoining their Province would be located, but the Government have found that the best policy for them on this subject is to have no policy at all. I regret that no measure has been announced by the Government respecting the repeal of the Insolvent Act. Almost the entire commercial community is of opinion that if the law is not repealed, at least there should be some serious modification made in it. We have the old machinery throughout the Dominion for liquidating debts of insolvent states by means of the sheriffs, who are receiving salaries from the Crown. This work has been taken from them and put into the hands of the assignees, who have to be paid by the creditors. Honorable gentlemen, no doubt, have occasion to acquire by experience the knowledge that in the majority of cases the assignees take the greater part of the estate to pay their expenses. From the experience of our province the best way would be to leave the liquidation of insolvent estates in the hands of the Sheriffs, and if they find that it will cause too much delay in the sale of movable property, it will be easy to remedy such defects.

Hon. M. McLELAN moved the adjournment of the debate until to-morrow.—Carried.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.