

the exports of our manufactured goods have decreased; that they have never since he has been in the position he now occupies reached the extent they did in 1878. I have pointed out repeatedly that our manufacturers have been hampered by additional duties being placed upon their raw material, which have enhanced the cost of the manufactured article, and that to compete successfully in the markets of the world with goods, the prices of which were so enhanced, becomes a very difficult matter. I have also pointed out that our manufacturers have to compete in foreign markets with manufacturers who are aided in their efforts by Consuls representing the nations to which they belong, an advantage that only those engaged in promoting a foreign trade can understand. I think it is too bad when our manufacturers are under the disadvantage of not having the assistance of a Consul of our own to take them by the hand as the Consuls do the manufacturers of other nations, and in addition to that, when our manufacturers are harassed in the importation of goods entering into the manufacture of articles to be exported, that the relief promised them by the Customs Department by way of drawback of the duty upon the articles so entering into the manufacture, has not been given them. Last Session I found that the Minister had varied the regulations with respect to affidavits which had to be made in favour of certain parties, and I pointed out a remarkable coincidence in the case of those parties, and I asked him—I did not charge him with having done anything wrong, for I thought his concession in their case was a right one—to extend those concessions to all other manufacturers, and I thought I had his promise that the regulations would be so altered. I am informed that this has not been done, at all events with regard to all manufacturers, and I call his attention to it now in order that, if he has been so much occupied with other matters in his Department that he has been unable to attend to this particular item, which is one of considerable importance, he may find time ere long to remedy it. I beg to move for a return of all claims presented for drawbacks on goods manufactured for export (not included in the last return made to this House), showing the names of all applicants, their place of business, the articles on which the drawback was claimed, and the amount of each claim, distinguishing between the claims which have been allowed and those which have been disallowed, and those under consideration and not yet decided, and giving the reason for such disallowance: also copies of all regulations made by the Department with reference to such claims, together with a copy of one allowed claim and the sworn declaration thereto of each exporter.

Mr. BOWELL. There is no objection to bringing down all the information for which the hon. gentleman asks. The House is now tolerably well versed, I think, in the complaints which have made at various times by the hon. gentleman who has made this motion. We have heard it in the same language, I think, some seven or eight times, and I have no doubt we shall have it repeated again once or twice before the Session closes. I am quite aware that he pointed out, or attempted to point out, that the exportation of certain manufactures had not been increased since the imposition of the present duties, which have been levied under what is better known as the National Policy. I thought I answered that question tolerably well on a previous occasion, when I pointed out the large outlet which had been provided for certain manufactures of the older Provinces in the North-West Territories and Manitoba, and also by means of the great interprovincial trade which has been created and worked up between the different Provinces; that though my hon. friend did not deny that the manufacturers were all busily engaged and had been so for the last three or four years the output of each of these manufacturers was greater than on previous occasions;

and that the reason their goods had not been exported to the foreign market was the fact of a greater market existing within our own borders. I pointed out that we had in fact created a home market by this interprovincial trade, and also by the fact of keeping out to a certain extent those manufactures which otherwise would have been brought into the country. At that time I gave the figures as they then presented themselves to me, and had I supposed that the question was about to be mooted again, I think the statements which could be laid before the House would show that the trade has marvellously increased the last two or three years. I do not know what the hon. gentleman means when he speaks of the harassing of the importers in the importation of the raw material which enters into the various manufactures made in this country. I have simply to say that every case that has been brought under the notice of the Department, and under my own in particular, in which the manufacturers or the importers considered themselves aggrieved, has received my personal attention, not only by communication with them by the Department, but where they were of a very serious character, I have gone to the localities personally, and I have never yet failed to satisfy the people that the action of the Department has been under the law, and that whatever has been done has been done in the interest solely of the honest importer. I do not pretend to say—it would be absurd to suppose—that in working out a complex Tariff like ours, and with so many ports as there are in this Dominion, we could have perfect uniformity where we have so many collectors who take different views of even common orders that may be issued, which to an ordinary man one would suppose would be perfectly plain. I do not pretend or expect that the Department or its officers will ever arrive at that state of perfection in which they can issue orders which will be thoroughly understood by every one of the officers who have to put the law in force. With regard to the remark made by the hon. gentleman in reference to the varied affidavits, I have simply to make this statement, that every claim for drawbacks has been judged upon its own merits, and just as far as the law would permit the Department, just so far have they gone in order to encourage to the fullest extent the exportation of every conceivable kind of article manufactured in this country. I do not know to what particular case the hon. gentleman refers at the present time, but I do say that no manufacturer has made application for a drawback, or for information which might lead him to increase his manufactures or to make contracts for the foreign market, to whose case my attention has not been given, and in which I have not put the most liberal possible construction upon the law as it formerly existed and as it now exists. If there are any cases which my hon. friend has in his mind's eye, or of which he has any knowledge, in which this has not been done, I should be glad, on the part of the Government, to have my attention called to them. The hon. member is altogether mistaken when he says I have not given personal attention to all these matters. I do not hesitate to say that in every case in which these drawbacks have been asked for, or in which any difficulty has arisen between the manufacturers and the officers of my Department, my attention has been called to it, and I have investigated and read all the papers connected with it. I have yet to learn of any case that has not had the attention, not only of myself, but of the officers of the Department. I say further that the papers will show that even in the case to which the hon. gentleman referred during last Session, if he had not interrupted me in the manner he did, I would have shown that letters were sent to that particular manufacturer, asking him to amend his claims and the Department would meet his case so far as the law would permit, and that no answer was ever made to that request. Yet the hon. gentleman having this particular case in his mind's eye at all