

farmer are cheaper, of a better quality, and better suited to the wants of the country than they were when $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. duty was imposed. The incidental protection we have enjoyed for the last ten or fifteen years has stimulated manufacturing industries to a certain extent, and the result is that these articles are now produced cheaper and of a much better quality. There are a great many other industries that I might mention to sustain this position, but I do not wish to detain the House too long. But there is one in particular to which I shall, and I wish I understood it enough to enter into all its details—I mean the sugar question. That very important branch is almost ruined by the policy of our Government, and by the policy adopted by the United States in allowing such very large drawbacks as they are doing on the exports of refined sugar to Canada. These drawbacks consist principally of three classes, viz.: \$3.60 per 100 lbs., \$3, and \$2.50. Such drawbacks are allowed to the refineries of Boston, New York, &c., on all sugars of certain grades exported from the country, so that sugar coming from the United States here gets this bonus, and the effect has been to close our refineries and throw the refiners out of employment. Hundreds of men are idle and families in almost a state of destitution in consequence of the want of a proper policy by the Government in meeting this unjust proceeding on the part of the United States. I hope this Government, before the House rises, will take this question into serious consideration. A gentleman whom I had a long conversation with lately declared that a refinery in Canada has worked at a clear loss of $12\frac{1}{2}$ to $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents on every 100 lbs. brought into competition with the United States. I state that on the authority of a gentleman well qualified to judge, and I think my hon. friend from Halifax will probably confirm my statement, or will correct me if wrong. The quality of sugar now sent into Canada is very inferior; the saccharine quality of that sugar, in some instances, is not more than 60 per cent. of what it used to be, and I believe the average is from 80 to 82, while the genuine article we got some years ago

would average 89 to 99 per cent., and the consumer pays quite as high for the article. This arises from the fact that persons in the United States are manufacturing the cheapest and commonest article to send into Canada, in order to secure the enormous drawback.

I hope, therefore, that the Government will see their way to bring before this House some remedy for this great evil. I also stated on an occasion to which I have already referred, that Canada was made a sacrifice market for various manufactures in the United States and certain kinds of goods. When I was in Montreal, yesterday, I called on one or two people who are engaged in the hardware business—in my own branch of business. One young man who is buyer for a very large house, I asked distinctly and plainly if it was the case that goods were offered to Canadian buyers at lower prices than they were to American buyers for home consumption. He replied equally plainly and distinctly that it was quite notorious, and in proof of this assertion he gave me a memorandum of some articles. First, take locks: These are used extensively in our houses. There is what is called the price list. They are all fixed. There is no alteration or change in the prices, but there is an alteration in the discount. The nominal prices are the same for both Canada and the United States, but in the United States the manufacturers allow a discount of 50 and 2 per cent. to purchasers for home consumption; but for Canadian purchasers they allow a discount of 50 and 2 and 10, making a discriminating duty of 10 per cent. against Canadian manufacturers and in favour of themselves really. The next article he gave me was that of enamelled hardware. We have one manufactory up at Hamilton. The discount in the United States is 20 per cent. off their lists, but for Canada, in order to compete with or to drive out our struggling industries of the same, as at Hamilton, and one or two at Montreal, a discount of 50 per cent. is allowed. That is they charge 80 cents in the United States, but only 50 cents for them when the articles come into Canada. The price in the United