

proposition like it. Curran, on one occasion, was engaged in a duel with a gigantic member of the Irish Bar, who complained that he was not fighting on terms of equality. He said Curran was a very small man and was much more difficult to hit than he. "We will chalk out" said Curran, "a figure of my size on you and all shots outside of that shall not be counted." If the United States have a larger territory they have also a very much larger population, and the 16,000,000 of excess in population are carrying on domestic manufactures for themselves, as well as the 36,000,000 which the hon. gentleman is willing to count. The business of manufacturing cotton is of very modern growth. It began in England and the United States about the same period of time. The United States had the advantage in a domestic supply of the raw material. For a time England had cheaper capital. At this moment there are 40,000,000 of spindles in England and about 9,600,000 in the United States. The United States are not supplying their own population. England is supplying nearly 300,000,000 of people outside the United Kingdom. In England there are 468,000 hands employed in the manufacture of cotton, or nearly ninety spindles to each hand. Now, when I look at the returns which have been submitted to this House, I am forced to the conclusion that they are either very inefficient or the information which has been given is calculated to mislead rather than to inform us of the actual state of things. The hon. Finance Minister has brought down a return which shows that since 1879 four new cotton factories have been established in the country, one at Brantford, employing 120 hands. One at Hamilton employing 125 hands, one at Coaticook employing 230 hands, and one at Cornwall employing 225 hands, in all 700 hands. The Commissioners which the hon. gentleman appointed say they inspected thirteen cotton factories employing 4,021 persons. Those figures show that the tremendous stimulus of 40 per cent. has not produced so rapid a growth of those factories as we might have expected. But what I desire specially to direct the attention of the House to, is this: that, according to the English Standard these 4,021 hands ought to represent 390,000 spindles, but instead of doing so the hon. Finance Minister informs us that there are but 106,000 or 108,000 cotton spindles in Canada, and I am not at all sure that there may not be many more cotton factories in the country than those visited by these gentlemen. We see that even if this represents the whole number, that labor and machinery in Canada, is to labor and machinery in England, as 26 is to 90. Now, when the hon. gentleman tells this House that the people of Canada are getting