

people believed they could realize a profit from. They consist largely of corn and wheat, which are carried in our vessels, manufactured by our millers, transported on our railways, and a portion exported and sold at a profit. Do you suppose our people do not profit by this. A considerable portion of the corn we import has been consumed by our farmers instead of home products, which command higher prices. A great deal has been manufactured into whiskey, it is true, but this whiskey has been largely exported at a profit while the offal of the distillery has been fed to cattle, which have also been sold, and the money has been circulated in the country. Our farmers cannot produce corn as cheaply as our neighbors, but they raise barley, peas and oats, our climate and soil being better suited for them. They sell those grains at about \$1.50 per 100 lbs, and buy corn at \$1, which answers them equally well for feeding stock, and thus they make from forty to fifty per cent profit. Shall we deprive our farmers of this advantage? Shall we put a tax on American corn because of the foolish cry that Americans have put a tax on our corn? I say such a course would be suicidal, and I cannot believe that many of the gentlemen who advocate it would support such a policy if their friends were in power.

Hon. Mr. TRUDEL—I cannot, under prevailing circumstances, remain silent respecting the unfortunate omission in the Speech from the Throne respecting the depression of the trade and industries of the Dominion. I think it is in the interest of the country that some gentleman from each Province should rise and give his testimony as to the effects which the fiscal policy of the Government has produced in each part of the Dominion. As Quebec has suffered, I think, more than any other Province under the present condition of things, it is my duty to mention how far we have been aggrieved by that policy. When we came here at the opening of the present session, I think it was the impression of honorable gentlemen that we were summoned to enquire into the best means to provide a remedy for the present depressed condition of the country. To my astonishment I found no allusion whatever to the main question that occupies public attention all over the Dominion. Strange to say, when it is the general thought of the Dominion that we should find some remedy for the commercial depression, that our Government, whose duty it is to suggest that remedy, do not even allude to the subject, but seem to ignore the fact that such an evil prevails. An honor-

able gentleman who spoke last Friday, expressed the opinion that because the Government had not thought it advisable to allude to that question, it was proof that the crisis was at an end, and the country was in a sound condition. I do not think, however, that the people of the country are of the same opinion, and they will be somewhat surprised to learn that they have been laboring under a delusion; that everything is in the best possible condition; that there is no depression of trade; that our industries are not failing, and that everything is prosperous; and all that, because the Government did not allude to the matter in the Speech from the Throne. Of course, it does not enter into my mind to charge the Government with being the cause of this depression, but I do not think there is a single gentleman in this House who would deny that the Government could have afforded a remedy to a certain extent, and that some of our industries which have been nearly, if not entirely, destroyed, might be at least kept alive through the crisis if not preserved in a flourishing condition. They might have been protected in such a way as to allow manufacturers to keep their business going without being obliged to discharge their workmen until a better time would arrive. It is true that the crisis which we deplore has prevailed all over the world, and that our neighbors in the United States have suffered to a great extent; but during this time the Government of the United States have used every effort to protect the industries of their country, while our industries have been left in such an unprotected state that it has been death to them. The Americans have taken advantage of the crisis to destroy their most dangerous competitors in Canada, so that it will be found that, taken as a whole, the crisis has been a good fortune to them. And this is due to the good fiscal policy of their Government, and the bad fiscal policy of our own. I am always surprised to hear the advocates of the present fiscal policy say that protection to manufacturers would develop undue production. I would ask the honorable gentleman what branch of our industries is threatened with that danger? What industries have we which have been so stimulated as to make us fear undue production from them? As far as I know we import almost every kind of merchandise so that it would take a great many years before the bad effects which the honorable gentlemen seem to fear from protection would be produced in this Dominion. So far as I know the persistent