

PREFACE.

IN presenting a work of this kind for the first time to the public we feel that we have only entered, as it were, on the outskirts of the subject; not having been able to gather all the information we desired on so important a subject as the manufactures of the Dominion, we have, however, done our best to keep faith with our advertisers, and to present an attractive, readable book to the reader, which contains much interesting information with regard to our manufactures, and some account of the principal places where manufactures are carried on to any extent. For many of the descriptions of towns and villages we are indebted to the valuable information contained in Lovell's *Gazetteer of British North America*, and we return thanks to the Lovell Publishing Company for allowing us to make use of this work. We are also indebted to Morgan's *Parliamentary Companion*, for valuable information concerning the composition of the present House of Parliament, &c.

Manufacturing in the Dominion is yet in its infancy, and it needs wise and careful training to develop it into the full strength of manhood; it is a vigorous infancy, but it will need tender and judicious nursing to bring it to that perfect development which the country is capable of. Nature designed Canada as a thoroughly self-sustaining country; with the finest water power in the world, the grandest rivers, the most noble forests, the most magnificent lakes, and an extensive and fertile country, the Dominion needs little, if any, outside help to furnish all the necessities, and even the luxuries of life. The backbone of a country is its manufactures. Nature does much, but leaves man to complete the work to suit his own taste. Nature has done much for us by supplying us with almost inexhaustible supplies of wood, iron, coal, water and other necessities for enabling us to develop our own resources; and it remains for man to take advantage of the bounty of nature and turn it to good account.

Within the brief space of half a century the industries of Canada have developed with an astonishing rapidity, in the face of great and numerous difficulties; and, although now suffering a slight depression, we can see the seeds of vitality in it, and can confidently prophecy that, with judicious legislation, the Dominion is destined at no distant day to take her place among the foremost manufacturing countries of the world. Some idea of the magnitude to which our manufacturing industries have grown, may be gathered from the census return of 1871 which shows that at that time the amount of capital invested in manufactures in the four Provinces of Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia was \$77,964,000; the number of hands employed, 187,942; the amount of wages paid yearly, \$10,850,000; and the value of the articles produced, \$221,600,000. There is reason to fear that our manufacturing industries have not prospered so well during the past five years as during the five years anterior to those, and the number of hands employed, amount of wages paid, and value of products to-day would scarcely compare favourably with the figures of 1871. There are many reasons for this stagnation in our manufactures: over production, a general depression in trade throughout the world, over speculation, and, last but not least, a want of protection for our young industries. The Dominion is an infant in manufactures compared to countries like England, Germany, France or the United States; and the infant needs protection and fostering care to guard it against the fully grown and well developed industries of those countries. England's boast is that she is a Free Trade country; but no manufactures were ever more zealously guarded, or more carefully protected in their infancy than those of England; and the Free Trade industries of the England of to-day owe their success—nay, almost their very existence—to the Protected industries of the England of the past.

Take our neighbours across the line 45°, and see what protection has done for them; under a strong protective, almost prohibitory tariff, they have developed their industries until they can "beard the lion in his den," and actually take cottons to Manchester and sell them cheaper than the English manufacturers can. Placed as Canada is "between two fires," as it were, Free Trade England on one side, and the over Protected United States on the other, it needs much care and caution to steer a policy which will enable our manufacturers to compete fairly with either; certainly we shall never be able to do this as long as the United States have only fifteen or twenty per cent. duty to pay on goods exported to Canada, while Canada has fifty or sixty per cent. duty to pay on goods sent to the United States; what our manufacturers want is a FAIR PLAY tariff; let the duties between the United States and Canada be equalized, if they charge us fifty per cent. duty on goods made in Canada and exported to the States, let us charge them fifty per cent. duty on goods made in the United States and exported to Canada. This would at least put us on an equality with the States; they could use our market and we could use theirs on equal terms, and the best and cheapest goods would command the best sale; but, as the case stands at present the manufacturer in the States can always use Canada as a "slaughter" market, when the markets of the States are glutted, well knowing that the Canadian manufacturer cannot retaliate for the American is safely defended by the strong wall of protection raised around him.

There are hundreds of factories in Canada, and thousands of thousands of employees idle to day on account of the Americans having flooded us with their surplus goods, which they are willing to sell for "anything for cash," both to keep up their own market and to break down our manufacturers to make room for their own. Our legislators, should remember that there are over one hundred and eighty thousand persons, earning about forty millions of dollars a year in wages, dependent on their legislation and they should be careful to so protect our manufactures that this large amount of labour, and great employment of capital be retained in the Dominion; or, some fine morning we will awake to the painful consciousness that our young and growing industries have been nipped in the bud, that our mechanics and artisans have "crossed the line," and that Canada has retrograded half a century, and is again entirely dependent on foreign countries for all her manufactures.