

most illustrious. That is all very useful information no doubt, for which the commissioner should be well paid. He also made a small circuit of Prince Edward Island, and of one of the towns there, he says :—

"There is not much doing; however, the people of Summerside are not apprehensive about the future.

"They cultivate a cheerful spirit, and look hopefully ahead. They will always be able to claim for their own town and vicinity preeminence as a pleasant summer resort."

That is cheerful at any rate, and is calculated to console everybody from that beautiful island, whether it flourishes under the National Policy or not. Further on he quotes the opinions expressed by some of the gentlemen on whom he called—

"Mr. N. Powers, undertaker, reports the general health of the city good, probably better than in 1878. He adds, with grim good humor:—Times are somewhat tough, but then this toughness is not common to St. John; it affects the world at large. My business, like most other trades, is affected by hard times, inasmuch as people call for cheaper work than in prosperous times."

Then he calls on Mr. John J. Munroe, who owns a trunk factory, who reports "business this year is very good—better than last year, and better than 1878."

Of course it is; people are going away from the province, and I can well understand that trunks are in demand everywhere. I have no doubt at all that the trunk factory is flourishing. Then he gives a statement of Messrs. Stewart & White, furniture manufacturers. Those gentlemen report that trade is dull now, and add :—

"The tariff is unjust to furniture manufacturers who use fine goods, for the manufacture of which there is not now, nor likely to be, any provision in the near future."

I have marked a number of passages that have a certain degree of interest, but time does not permit of my referring to them all. I think the commissioner has tried as far as the "exigencies" of the circumstances have allowed, to make as complete a statement as possible; but it is a very confused report, contradictory in its parts, and fictitious in some particulars, though I have no doubt not through any bad intent.

McNichol & Russell, merchant tailors, are reported as saying in reply to the commissioner's inquiries :—

"Business not so booming as in 1878, nor as good as last year. The general depression and diminished work for the laboring classes causes business to languish. Confederation hasn't helped our business. It enables the Montreal and western dealers to overload our market with the goods of the same description as we make, and at prices below competing figures."

Edward Hayes, a biscuit baker, says :—

"The National Policy is not helpful to my business. I use about two-thirds American flour. The American article is preferred because of its strength."

Then there is quite an interesting report from Mr. John Parks, of the Park's, or New Brunswick, Cotton Mills, who says :—

"Business this year is the worst I have seen in my experience, especially during the last three months."

At Fredericton, McFarlane, Thompson & Anderson's foundry, started 13 years ago, is reported to be prospering. They do not know that the National Policy hurts them much in a general way. In one respect, however, it operates to their prejudice. They say their market to buy is in the United States; but the tariff forces them to go to Ontario for malleable castings, at a much larger first cost, and much higher freight charged than they formerly paid to foundries in the Republic. They add :—

"The Londonderry Iron Works make very good iron, but at present there is little or nothing being done there. We find it better to import our pig and bar iron from the old country. Most of the iron we now use is Scotch pig."

When the commissioner comes to report on the Londonderry Iron Works, he makes out that there are a large number of hands employed, and I do not see how that compares with the statement of the foundrymen above alluded to, who say that "there is not much doing there." The Londonderry iron is protected by a high duty in the first place; then there is an additional bounty put upon the pig iron, and after that they had almost nominal rates for the transport of coal, and after that they had the credit of the Government for the transport of the coal—and a long credit, too, I think. I might go further on through this report, but I do not propose to do so. I am sorry to weary hon. gentlemen, but this subject has