

Now, that is a calm and reliable statement, showing that the country is gradually and safely settling back to its normal condition. I am inclined to believe this statement of Governor Rice. It is based upon facts and returns brought in, and made before a number of manufacturers who were able to refute him had he spoken in a tone of exaggeration. I must protest against the introduction into this debate of arguments attributing the whole depression of the United States, to the system of protection. The other abnormal conditions are such that no reliable data could be given showing the actual effects of protection.

Mr. Charlton's Statistics utterly Valueless.

If we accept that proposition, we would wipe out the results of all the labour and industry which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton) has put forth in order to make out his little special case before this House. If we accept that proposition, the hon. gentleman's papers are utterly valueless, they are just so much waste paper, and the days and nights he expended in accumulating them have been in vain. I do not expect the House to receive this proposition upon my individual dictum, but I have a high authority to support it. I give as an authority the name of J. E. Cairnes, M.A., late Professor of Political Economy in University College, London, who, although seeking to establish by his book the principles of free trade, disdained to make use of arguments similar to those the hon. gentleman uses, and he repudiated their use most emphatically. The Professor said :—

" And here we are confronted at once with the difficulty of interpreting an industrial experiment. The system of American Protection, in its present exaggerated form, may be regarded as dating from 1861, when the Morrill tariff became law. If all the other conditions of the case had remained substantially the same since that time, we might now, by a mere inspection of results, pronounce without hesitation on the effect of the policy then inaugurated; but instead of this observe how the facts stand. In the same year the great Civil War commenced, in the course of which the destruction of human life and of wealth in every form probably exceeded any thing which had before occurred within the same time in the history of human affairs. This was soon followed by the creation of an immense national debt, entailing a large permanent increase of taxation, and by the issue of an incontrovertible paper currency, circulating throughout the Union, and affecting alike prices and wages in every branch of trade. On the other hand, occurrences of a very different kind marked the course of the period under review, mineral resources were discovered which are now yielding vast wealth, and oil springs which have become the source of an entirely new and rapidly increasing trade. Railway enterprise, again, during the same time appears to have taken on a new activity, whilst the progress of invention in the mechanical arts has never for a moment flagged. In presence of influences so numerous, so novel, and so vast, each affecting industry in its own fashion so powerfully, who shall say what portion of what we now find existing *can properly be attributed to any one of them?* The problem, in its mere statement, brings into striking relief the utter *futility of that so-called 'inductive method'* which some writers hold to be the proper one in social and economic enquiries—the method, that is to say, which would proceed by drawing general conclusions as to the operation of particular causes from the *summarised results of statistical tables.*"

The professor protested against the fallacy of the method used by my hon. friend because there were so many conditions to derange it. The propositions my hon. friend (Mr. Charlton) has adopted here,