

how can we expect the people of these countries to purchase our commodities when our fiscal policy prevents us from exchanging them for their raw products? A return to a National Policy would enable us to cultivate these markets to the advantage of the agriculturist and manufacturer, and in place of purchasing \$5,000,000 worth of refined sugar it would have been wiserto have invested this sum in our lumber, flour, and other Canadian products required in these markets. We can never expect to succeed in our commerce and manufactures under the present fiscal policy and it is indispensable to their profitable cultivation that we should have direct communication from Canadian ports to the West Indies, and that the Government should subsidize a line of steamers for that purpose, thereby utilizing the harbours of Montreal and Quebec in summer and Halifax and St. John in winter, and also using the Intercolonial railroad. This is a vital question for the consideration of the people of Canada and one which should receive the serious consideration of those who are legislating for the commerce of Canada.

Mr. Gillespie, Toronto, in seconding the motion, said—That although the Association had not yet effected the main object in view, namely, bringing about a change in the fiscal policy of the Government, we should not be discouraged, as the constant dropping of water makes a hole in a stone, so the Association should continue holding its meetings and passing resolutions expressing the views of the manufacturers, and in time any government will yield when the change demanded is clearly in the interest of the country at large. The popular cry against a protective tariff is, that it is class legislation, and politics seems to have descended to holding on even to a fallacy if such be held by the majority. If in case it be proved the legislation sought is only in the interest of the few to the detriment of the many, then the Government would be justified in resisting the demands of this Association. But I believe the manufacturers can make good their claims that it is necessary in maintaining an increasing population and even to retain the help we have at the present time, and that unless some protection is afforded to the industries of the Dominion we are in great danger of losing a considerable percentage of our working people. With our present tariff we are of more service to our neighbours than being a State of the Union, as if the manufacturers there can make a fair profit on what their own people require, they can well afford to dispose of their surplus here at a loss and yet make a profit on their whole productions. They can

thus maintain the market value of their production in their own country. This is clearly their policy. How is it possible for our manufactures to exist under such circumstances? Our complaint is not against fair competition, but against our tariff being framed for the convenience of our neighbours. If we look at the United States we will see that they maintain their population, and the large proportion of emigration going to that country as compared with Canada proves that the policy of our Government is suicidal. Whatever policy a former Government may have had in trying to secure a portion of the trade of this country for England would not hold good as regards a foreign country, and, if it is true that the trade of this country has changed from England to the United States, and that they have become our suppliers to the extent of twenty millions in three or four years, it is to my mind convincing that they are taking away the trade we ought to retain. There is nothing, to my mind, in the natural resources of that country to have secured to them that trade. I say they have secured that trade by legislation, and by legislation we have lost it. If England, with all its wealth and low rate of interest, could not retain that trade, and the United States, with its high rate of interest, could secure it, there has nothing brought it about but legislation—the legislation this Association demands, and which this country must eventually get. If the present policy of the Government is pursued, I am just as convinced as I can possibly be that before a long time the Government will awake to see the folly of the legislation they now think very wise. (Applause.)

The President said that the trade and navigation returns show an increase from 1872 to 1876 of our sugar imports from Great Britain and the United States of £35,000,000, and a decrease of £12,000,000 from the West Indies, on account of the stoppage of the sugar refining interests.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. Currier, of Ottawa, moved the following resolution:

That it is desirable to develop in Canada the production and manufacture of iron, which is a main element of national and commercial strength, the raw material for which has been bountifully bestowed by Nature upon this country, the only lack being that of a wise commercial policy, for which we are ourselves to blame.

and said that about 12 years ago a Montreal company erected iron works for the manufacture of pig iron, and carried the business on a few years, but at the time of the fire in 1870 the works were burned and have never since been rebuilt. Since then an attempt

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