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## HONOR TO HENRY W. DARLING

On Wednesday evening last the Board of Trade of the city of Toronto, recognized the valuable services rendered to the Board and to the commercial interests of this city by Mr Henry W. Darling, their late president, by a complimentary banquet in honor of that gentleman and the presentation of a massive silver epergne, imported from England, and a very handsome illuminated address. The general proceedings were fully reported in the daily press, and have consequently reached our readers before this, but Mr. Edward Gurney, a representative Canadian manufacturer, in responding to the toast of "Commerce and Manufactures," made such an admirable presentment of certain points of interest to all those engaged in the productive industries of this country, that we not only publish his speech in *extenso*, but bespeak for it the careful perusal of our readers. Throughout the whole address, Mr. Gurney's peculiar talent as a humorist is readily discernible, but "he who runs may read," and his remarks, though uttered in a jocular vein, as befits an after-dinner speech at a social gathering, contain many truisms and many points that define clearly the unfair attitude of a section of the community to the so-called "organized robbers," but who may be fitly and justly termed "organized benefactors" of the communities in which they may happen to have their capital invested and their energy and intelligence directed.

Mr. Gurney spoke as follows:

"It is generally recognized as a fact that after dinner speeches are spontaneous. The condition of fullness associated with the time being is wonderfully productive of thought. This I think I may regard as an axiom, and the facts that have come under your observation to night will indicate to your minds that none of the speeches delivered have ever been thought of before. (Laughter.) With me, however, it is different. As I had something of an abstruse subject to deal with, the committee were kind enough to consider me and give me a day in which to look it up, and I have been hard at work upon it ever since, and cannot make much of it. I know that I might have met this emergency in my life by merely returning my thanks with a bow and a bow, but recognizing that it is the duty of every man to have convictions in reference to every subject that presents itself, I felt that it was due to this assembly that I should unravel before them the mysteries of the beginning of the manufacturer and his relation to the merchant. With this good intention I looked up history, and readers of history will recognize that there are two ways of doing this: one is to begin at the beginning, and the other is

to begin at the end: novel readers begin at both ends to find out what the story is, but I began at the beginning, and I found out something that rather distressed me, *i.e.*, that Adam was the first manufacturer, he having made clothing. The material used was rather discouraging, as it would indicate that the moral tone of the manufacturers at that day must have been very low, as in custom work they used material that would even shame the ready-made clothing makers of these days. (Great laughter.) Being thus discouraged at the outlook, I thought perhaps I had better begin at the other end of the history, and I found by starting in the year of grace, 1887, I could find the most undoubted evidence of the degradation of this class in our community. It is expected in tracing out from the beginning any class in a community that it shall be found that there is a progress upward or downward of the most marked character. Now, in beginning at the end of the history of this class I find that as I stated before there are men devoid of principle, the words robber, organized robber, etc., being applied to them with the greatest freedom, and I want you to pause and consider the word organized. Now in physics the word organized is applied to matter of a higher order, and I think it just to assume that the class of robbers indicated by this adjective is of a corresponding degree of perfection. (Laughter.) About this time in my researches I came across a singular statement in the writings of a good English lady, and we must give all weight to such testimony, for "it's English you know," (laughter) and they were to the effect that society in England started from poverty at the bottom, finding its sustentation in the poor-house, rising by gradation, which may be briefly described as the small tradesman, the large tradesman, and finally the wholesale merchant, and then the manufacturer and the nobility. (Great laughter.) Now putting the fact that the manufacturer stands in organized society next to the nobility, and just above the wholesale merchant, I concluded that there might be some coherence between the fact of the manufacturer being a robber, and his ultimate entry into the nobility, for we know the men who founded almost all the noble houses had a somewhat shady reputation, and the mind naturally reverts to the robber baron. (Great laughter and applause.) These discoveries have produced in my mind peculiar effects, for while a few days ago I counted myself as a man of the people, who could never be induced by any circumstances to change his condition from that to one of greater pretension, I find now that there are springing up in my mind strange aspirations, first of which is to so far comply with this unknown law of robbery as to lead immediately to nobility (laughter), and the fact of the manufacturer being just