

endangered. It is not the foreign market alone that is put in jeopardy; that would be lost first, of course. But the home market also will be invaded, for nothing is more certain than that pre-eminence in neutral markets determines pre-eminence everywhere. If we cannot hold our own when we meet competitors on equal terms particularly, we cannot meet them at home. The alternative would then be to submit to be undersold in our own markets, or to revive protection. In that well-known work, Mr. Brassey has established conclusively that high wages do not prevent the country from attaining the greatest manufacturing prosperity, and in his recent lecture he addresses a fresh illustration of the same proposition. He has no misgivings respecting countries where cheap labour and a low standard of living prevails."

He goes on to say—

"The only country which fills me with apprehension is that in which labour is pre-eminently better paid than in our own, and where the standard of living is higher as well. We refer, of course, to the United States."

The locomotive manufactories of Pennsylvania, as he points out—

"Have supplied the railways on every market with engines, and are now supplying our Australian colonies, thus beating our own manufacturers in markets where they have competed, and in every branch of industry in which they ought to be foremost. It has been reported that the engines they turn out are of inferior workmanship. We are slow to accept explanations of this kind, remembering that the Americans allege precisely similar reasons to account for the pre-eminence of the Lancashire cotton trade. But even if it were correct, it would not touch the fact that, with a fair field and no favour, the Pennsylvanian locomotive manufacturers turn out an article which is preferred to the British. The fact will lose none of its significance when we further bear in mind that the United States have been supplying both Turkey and Russia with arms in the present war, and supplied France in 1870, and that, likewise, American corn and American beef are having all competitors in our own markets."

But that cannot possibly be. There are great protection countries, and in America there is great misery and great suffering. We are told the depression of that country is terrific; that we are in a happy, blessed state in comparison with that country. Yet, with all their depression, with all their bad trade, and with all their strikes, the people of that country are successfully

competing in the English markets, and not only so, but in all the markets to which England has access—beating Eng'and out of the field, despite those disasters. True, they have suffered as this country has suffered. But there is this difference. We have no manufactures here. We have no work-people; our work-people have gone off to the United States. They are to be found employed in the Western States, in Pittsburg, and, in fact, in every place where manufactures are going on. These Canadian artizans are adding to the strength, to the power, and to the wealth of a foreign nation instead of adding to ours. Our work-people in this country, on the other hand, are suffering for want of employment. Have not their cries risen to Heaven? Has not the hon. the Premier been surrounded and besieged, even in his own Department, and on his way to his daily duties, by suffering artizans who keep crying out: "We are not beggars, we only want an opportunity of helping to support ourselves and our families." Is not such the case also in Montreal and in Quebec? In fact, is not that the state of things which exists in every part of Canada as well as in the United States? But this must also be borne in mind, that, when the depression is over and times become prosperous, there will be found manufactories in the United States where men will be required to work. The manufactories and the men are there, but we have not got them here. If we had a protective system in this country, if we had a developed capital, we could, by giving our manufacturers a reasonable hold on our home trade, attain a higher position among the nations. If our factories were fenced round to a certain extent with protection,—I do not mean that we should adopt a tariff like that of the United States, which I believe to be in many respects an unscientific one,—and impose a tariff such as the necessities of Canada may demand, our national prosperity would be enhanced. The United States tariff, which grew out of the necessities of the war, is unscientific, and wants readjustment. No doubt it will be readjusted; but, if so, it will be in a protective spirit. Let