

abroad should cease. That was the last resource which the Canadian public had in case there really happened what is generally believed has happened—that is to say, that manufacturers would combine together to keep up prices and control the market. That was the anticipation, and I recollect well that the time these measures were before Parliament almost every gentleman on the Liberal side of the House anticipated that such an event would occur, an attempt to keep up prices by combination between manufacturers, not of sugars alone, but of other articles. That was flatly denied, and we were told that there would be home competition sufficient to prevent any possibility of a combination between the different manufacturers. I very much doubt if that can be said to have resulted as was anticipated. I believe myself that there has been some sort of combination between the manufacturers of sugar and the grocers. But what I think was wrongly laid to their charge by the hon. gentleman from Quinté was this: that they took a further advantage than what was afforded them by the tariff of Canada to keep down competition from abroad. If I mistake not, the hon. gentleman said that if any independent dealer in sugar, a man of perhaps a little more than ordinary push and means, should find that the price of sugar abroad was such that he could import it, pay the duty and sell it in Canada for less money than he could obtain the same article from the manufacturers here, that that would be a fair speculation, but that the manufacturers had taken measures to prevent any such venture, by intimating to the importer that he could not avail himself of two markets. Am I correct?

HON. MR. READ—No; what I said was this: that under the rules of the combine a person that did not enter the combine could not get the same advantage from the refiners as those who did enter the combine; and that the duties were such that he could not buy in a foreign market and compete with the refiners.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—There is not much difference between my hon. friend's statement and mine. The cases in which the merchant could go to a foreign market were few, but some there were, and it is the talk of the trade in the Province from which I come that any man who availed

himself of that shut the door of the manufacturers against himself. That soft impeachment has not been denied.

HON. MR. DRUMMOND—Will the hon. gentleman permit me to deny it utterly, as far as I know.

HON. MR. READ—Does the hon. gentleman deny that his company declined to sell to Mr. Matthewson, of Montreal, at the same price as to other dealers?

HON. MR. DRUMMOND—That is not the question at all. That question, as I understood it, is, that there is an arrangement whereby if any person imported from abroad, the refiners refused to sell to him, and I gave it an explicit and entire denial, as far as my knowledge is concerned.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—When the Parliament of Canada gave such large concessions to the manufacturers whom they expected to set in motion by means of the National Policy, they never contemplated that the doors should be closed against the importation of foreign goods, or that measures should be taken to punish men who availed themselves of foreign markets. They certainly never contemplated such a state of things as that. It might be the case that in the early experience of sugar manufacturers in Canada there would be an absolute scarcity of sugar, and to say that any man who ventured to import from abroad for himself, or for his own business, should be punished by the home dealers for what they estimated a crime, is, I think, going far beyond all privileges which manufacturers were allowed by Parliament.

HON. MR. DRUMMOND—I have already told the hon. gentleman that it is not a fact that any such arrangement ever existed. I never heard of it, and the only way in which the home manufacturers can prevent importation is by selling sugar cheaper than it can be imported for.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—In general you do, but not always.

HON. MR. DRUMMOND—Always.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—I am sure the hon. gentleman does not suppose that I have invented anything of the sort. It has been the talk of the country, and has formed the subject of leading articles in