

The various articles of native production there exhibited gave birth to the hope that the day is not far distant when Canada will be a self-supplying power, in respect of many articles now imported from foreign lands. This was the first step, avowedly the most difficult. It ought not to be the last.

Canada is emphatically an agricultural, why should it not be also a manufacturing country? Has it not the finest and most numerous water-powers in the world? Does it not possess the richest mines ever yet discovered? Our iron mines of St. Maurice and Marmora, and on the banks of the Ottawa, are as rich in ore, and the ore is at least as good in quality, as are the mines of the most favoured countries of Europe, if indeed they are not superior. (*Vide* Mr. Benjamin's answer.) Our copper mines on the shores of Lake Superior are also well worthy of attention.

Far from operating injuriously to each other, these two pursuits should afford mutual aid, encouragement, and sustenance to each other. The British Islands are essentially devoted to manufactures, and yet there are few countries in which the science of agriculture is better understood, and its principles more successfully applied in practice.

Your Committee are fully aware of the great diversity of opinion prevailing in the country with respect to this point of political economy, and are not desirous of engaging in the discussion of the question, but they would fail in the fulfilment of their duty did they not invite the attention of Your Honourable House and of the Government to the state of the tariff, as compared with that of our neighbours, in respect at least to those articles which we might readily produce. We are bound to bear in mind that all iron ware may be imported into this Province on payment of a duty of 12½ per cent., while such articles cannot be carried into the United States without payment of a duty of 30 per cent.

The opinion of the majority of politicians at the present day appears to be so strongly in favour of free trade, that any demonstration of a contrary tendency may appear unjustifiable and inimical to the prosperity of the country. England having nurtured her manufacturing system by a protective policy, through whole centuries, and then led the way over the unexplored ground of free trade, is cited as a decisive illustration of the merits of this policy, but if the influence of a political principle has produced beneficial results in one country, it does not follow that it will be equally advantageous in another, unless that other should be in an exactly similar position, in respect of trade and manufactures. Accordingly, before we admit the principle to be applicable to our own country, we are bound to assure ourselves that our condition is akin to that of the mother country.

The manufactures of England are not excelled by those of any other country, in respect of amount, variety, or perfection of workmanship, and that country may therefore very consistently preach the doctrine of free trade, since the principle is all in all to her. She may well desire its universal adoption, since she can compete with all nations, and come out of the contest with certain gain. The principle opens to her every market. Her immense navy shares in its benefits. But let us consider the means by which she has attained this pre-eminence for her manufactures: it was by levying high import duties on all foreign manufactured goods.

The United States have made use of the same system with some degree of success. It is established beyond dispute that a new manufacturing establish-