

out in 1876 that the emigration from the most highly protected districts of the United States was very much greater than from any part of Canada; and Mr. Ross, the member from West Middlesex, surprised Sir John Macdonald very much when he pointed out most effectively that the emigration was much less than under our predecessors: that in 1871 it was 47,024; in 1872, 30,454; in 1873, 42,021; and in 1876, only 21,616. There never was a time in the history of Canada when so few were leaving the country as last year, and this. We are opening Manitoba and the North-West, and thither our people who leave the older provinces go. Dr. Tupper complained that the Finance Minister so mismanaged the affairs of the country that there has been a deficit for the past three years, and that no steps have been taken to remedy what is termed "this great disaster." Prof. Thorold Rogers' work on Cobden's political opinions might be studied by Dr. Tupper with advantage. He observes that men who are ignorant of political economy are in the habit of blaming the Government for the stringency of the times. The Doctor informed us what he would do if he were Bengough. "He would represent the Finance Minister as General Distress giving the word Starve!" I do not concur with this statement of the Doctor's. Were he Bengough he would have too much genius and

#### TOO MUCH SENSE TO DO ANYTHING OF THE KIND.

He says we changed the fiscal policy of the country—that the policy of the Government of Sir John Macdonald was a policy of Protection—that a 15 per cent. tariff then was more protective than a 20 per cent. tariff would be now. That then we were really protected as against the United States, and that the expense of carrying goods across the Atlantic protected us against England. What are the facts? In 1872, we purchased upwards of \$10,300,000 worth of cotton goods; in 1873, about \$10,000,000 worth; in 1874, \$11,000,000 worth; in 1876, about \$7,000,000 worth; and in 1877, \$7,400,000. It matters not to our cotton manufacturers whether our cottons come from England, from the United States or from China. It is the fact that they come at all that creates the competition, and it is no more detrimental to the manufacturer to be undersold in the Canadian market by the Lowell than by the Manchester manufacturer. The result to him is all the same. What I wish specially to call your attention to is the fact that the value of cottons imported into Canada from other countries was less in 1877 than in 1872 by about \$3,900,000, and less than in 1874 by

about \$3,250,000. (Cheers.) If we look to the

#### IMPORTS OF WOOLLEN GOODS

again, we find that in 1872 upwards of \$12,000,000 worth were brought into Canada, while in 1877 the value of the importations of these articles had fallen to \$8,000,000, or a decrease of 33 per cent.; of these importations, \$11,900,000 worth were from Great Britain in 1872, and in 1877 the value from Great Britain had diminished to \$7,500,000. So that it is clear to the least comprehension that in so far as our woollen manufacturers have had competition at all, it has been a competition with the English and Scotch manufacturers, and not with those of the United States. Any one who has made himself at all familiar with the tariff of the United States will quite readily understand why such is the case. Cotton goods stand in a somewhat different position. The raw material of cotton goods is grown in the United States. It is a product of the country; and being a product of the country, the manufacturers obtain it free, it being only taxed incidentally through the imports upon the subsistence of the laborers and upon the machinery employed in its production. Then, if we look at

#### THE IRON AND HARDWARE TRADES,

we find that in 1874, nearly \$18,000,000 worth were imported into Canada, of which \$14,000,000 were from England, and about \$4,000,000 from the United States. In 1877 there were but \$10,000,000 imported, of which about \$6,400,000 were from England, and \$3,600,000 from the United States. I shall again deal with this subject more in detail, but I take these three leading articles of importation in the meantime for the purpose of showing you how utterly unfounded are the representations of Dr. Tupper; how untrue it is to say that the Government of which he was a member established a fiscal system by which the manufacturers of Canada were protected, and were enabled in consequence of that protection to grow and prosper especially because they had been given the Canadian market in which to sell Canadian goods to the exclusion of foreign products. We had a very much larger importation of foreign goods into the Canadian market in the two last years of the old Administration than in the two last fiscal years under the present Government. If it be true that our native manufacturers are in the terribly depressed condition they are represented to be, there cannot be a shadow of a foundation for the idea sought to be inculcated that the depression is due to increased competition in Canadian market.