

over the border has so heavy a tax levied on it?

"A.—No; it is against the interest of Canada! I humbly think we should not admit anything free of duty, except the raw material required for our manufactures.

"Q.—What effect has free admission of Indian corn on price of coarse grains, in your section of the country?

"A.—We are not much affected in our part of the country, because, unfortunately, we do not produce much more than what is required to supply our own wants; but it appears to me that wherever the farmer produces more than he requires for his own use, and has a surplus for sale, he must suffer by the competition. It is true the purchasers, among whom the manufacturers and the workmen ought to count, for a very large proportion may buy a little cheaper than the farmer, but, as a natural consequence, they will have to sell their goods cheaper to the farmer, whose purchasing powers are diminished. It is not by cheapening everything we can hope to attain national wealth. The dearer we pay the better for us, provided our paying power keeps pace with the increase of price. Ask a workman which of the two he prefers, flour at \$4.50 a barrel and no work, or flour at \$6 and plenty of work. Farming and industry are a strong team when they are driven together. Divide them and you have a one-horse concern, or rather two that will not do anything like the work of a good strong double team.

"Q.—Does the free importation of American flour, without reciprocity, put you at a disadvantage, as compared with American competitors; and if so, state reasons?

"A.—I think those who have grain for sale must feel it seriously."

This indicated perfectly what the hon. gentlemen and their friends considered the true policy, which ought to be introduced, and which was similar to the one proposed by this Government. He must also refer to another important subject, the iron interest, which would be fostered under this tariff. It was impossible to deny that this country possessed mines of great wealth. We had, for instance, not far from Quebec, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, the great iron mine of St. Aubain. Upon that mine an English company had expended one million of dollars already. The money for the time being was a complete loss, as it was impossible to compete against the imported iron from the States, and the mine was therefore closed. The iron obtained from it was admitted to be fully equal to the best Swedish iron. Under this tariff, this important industry would be developed, and with that development there was nothing to prevent us hereafter from building our own iron ships, making

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our rails, bridges, and every article of iron which was now imported. It was difficult to understand how this industry had been so long neglected, especially when it was seen that under the Protective tariff of the United States the Americans had been able to produce iron, not only to supply their own market, but to compete against English iron in the English market. There could be no doubt whatever that the same result would be obtained here under this policy. In 1873, the United States imported from England £4,897,208 sterling of iron, while, in 1878, they reduced their importations to £434,929, making a diminution of £4,000,000 in the period between 1873 and 1878, and, if hon. members referred to the *Iron-monger*, they would see that that well-informed paper state that, so far as could be judged from existing conditions, the loss to England on the American market for iron and steel seemed to be permanent. It appeared to him that a tariff which could foster that great industry in Canada, which could lead to establishing in our midst hereafter the building of our iron ships, the making of railway-rails, could not fail to be acceptable to the people, and to advance their interest. When they looked into this tariff more closely, as a question outside of any party struggle, or political feeling, but as a question affecting the dearest interests of the country, they must all arrive at the conclusion that it was a tariff which would do more benefit to Canada than any that had been introduced. He, for one, was not only ready to give it his entire approbation, but he believed in his section of the country the people would find it was one which did not sacrifice their interests, but which would, on the contrary, be of great advantage to them. He was quite ready to take the responsibility of that measure before the people who had elected him for the purpose of supplying a Protective tariff—this was the issue before the country at the last election—and to represent their interests in Parliament. He arrived at this conclusion, not so much through his own researches as by the researches of men whose experience and knowledge of the business, commerce and trade of the country gave weight to their opinion,