

by giving them the first choice in the markets, which was nothing but fair. For one, I do not believe that an increase in the tariff would advance the cost of manufacturing goods, and I think the resolution might have fairly included the agricultural, mining and other interests. I do not believe in class legislation, and I think the resolution, in ignoring the claims of the consumers, will fail to secure its objects, as it is necessary that the consumer should be prosperous in order that the manufacturer may have a market for his goods. I was rather amused at the remarks made by the hon. member for North Oxford, who referred to the immense increase in the production of cheese and butter. The hon. gentleman did not tell us that that increase was owing to there being 4 per cent. duty on these articles. I must again express my regret that the hon. member for Montreal has not looked a little further than the manufacturers in introducing his amendment.

Mr. BROWN—I wish to make a few observations relative to what has been said by the hon. member for Oxford with reference to Americans establishing factories in Canada. I know an instance. One of the largest factories was established by Americans, but it has suspended and thrown a large number of men out of employment. As a manufacturer, and from my position as representative of a large manufacturing town, which has contributed largely in subsidising establishments, I can say that we do not ask any exclusive tariff, or anything but fair competition with the United States. All we require is to be placed upon an equal footing with the Americans, and I think we will be able to produce goods as cheap as they. At present we are working at a disadvantage. The rolling mills in Toronto, Kingston and Montreal have had to stop on account of our inability to compete with their bar iron. We give scrap iron to the Americans and purchase it back again in bars. I may mention a number of articles which are imported here free. Mill machinery generally is admitted at a rate of 10 per cent., but the larger

Mr. ORTON.

portion comes in free. Such an arrangement does not give us a fair chance of competing with them. Agricultural implements are also, to a great extent, admitted free. All a man has to do to import these articles free is to belong to an Agricultural Society.

Had we the same scope of markets the Americans have, we could compete with them even with the disadvantages we now labour under. It takes a long time to educate our workmen into skilled mechanics, and every country has to go through the preliminary stages before becoming great in manufactures. England was protective until she was enabled, through her superior workmen and machinery, to compete with the world. Canada should take a lesson from that, and our statesmen should remember that it is not until manufacturing industries are prosperous that we shall rise to be a great nation. A great deal has been said about the agricultural interests, but it should be borne in mind that if the manufacturing interests are crippled farmers would suffer to a great degree. The Government makes every effort to bring immigrants to our shore, and yet we have not employment for our young men who have served their time as mechanics, who go to the other side to get higher wages and steadier employment. I hope the motion will be the means—although I do not suppose it will be carried—of bringing the matter fully before the country, and that by another Session of Parliament the people will render such an opinion as to induce the Government to take measures to aid and foster our manufacturing interests.

Mr. SINCLAIR—I am glad this question has been brought before the House in a proper manner. We have had a great deal of discussion, but now we have the matter fairly before us, and I hope there will be a square vote upon it. As far as I understand, the manufacturers are the only class that are looking to this House for relief from the existing depression, but if we look abroad, we shall find other classes are suffering as much as they are. I believe the mercantile and lumber interests are as much depressed as any, but persons engaged in these branches