

has been necessary to feed the Indians of the North-West, it will be necessary to feed them a good many years in succession. Rumors that reach us from some of the officers of that Department are not very encouraging. I have received letters which inform me that a very great degree of extravagance and folly has been practised with regard to Indian supplies; that, independently of the food supplies there have gone forward large supplies of ginger-bread and ribbons and some hundredweights of wax candles, for what purpose, in connection with Indian supplies, I do not know. I believe that one of the officers, guilty of some of those follies, has been very properly removed from his position; but I am afraid that some portion of the extra vote, which we shall be called upon to sanction, will be found to have been needless in the sense to which I have referred. The Speech from the Throne attributes our increased prosperity largely to the Tariff, and gives the interesting information that the Tariff has "not only promoted the manufactures and other products of the community," &c. I am very glad to learn that the other products of the country have been promoted by the Tariff. It is, certainly, a very sweeping tariff. It covers almost everything, and it is very satisfactory to the country that all the products of the country have been really promoted by its operation. However, it would be convenient, before adopting that clause, to have some information in detail, giving the classes of products, other than manufactures, so largely promoted by the Tariff. The First Minister, in the course of the speech to which I have referred, dealt also with that subject, and his remarks, may, perhaps, answer the member for West Toronto (Mr. Beaty) with regard to some of his economic arguments on the subject of the Tariff. The language of the First Minister, so far as it goes, expresses very clearly the views I also hold. He said:

"Of course, if the question of the accumulation of wealth, if buying in the cheapest, and selling in the dearest market were the only principles to be regarded in the life of a nation, then I would say that our tariff is a mistake, but there are other considerations. There are such things as natural strength and natural development."

The right hon. gentleman proceeded to give his reasons, convincing or not convincing, why national strength and national development can be promoted by a tariff not calculated to facilitate the accumulation of wealth, and which does not give the cheapest market to the buyer and the dearest to the seller. With those reasons we may not entirely agree. We may be disposed to differ with him in the view that national strength and national development are likely to be promoted by fiscal regulations which make us not richer but poorer, and do not give us facilities for buying and selling in the most profitable markets. But it is satisfactory to know that, upon economic grounds, we find that while in England, in that free trade atmosphere, the First Minister, who is largely responsible for the Tariff, as for all other things emanating from the Government, plainly acknowledged that, regarded from those economic considerations, the Tariff was not what the hon. gentleman stated it was to be before the electors of 1878, but was regarded from this economic standpoint as a mistake. On the same occasion the hon. gentleman (Sir John A. Macdonald) took the opportunity of stating the mode in which the farmers of the country were to be benefited by the Tariff. We did not hear, when the hon. gentleman elucidated his views on this subject in England, some of the wild and extraordinary statements which, upon this subject, were very frequently made before the elections of 1878. I believe there has been a little more caution in putting them forward of late, than was observable in former days. On that occasion he spoke thus:

"It was thought, wisely or unwisely, that it (the Tariff) could be so adjusted as to assist the infant manufactures of Canada; and as regards the farmers to prevent the great occasional local disturbance in values of agricultural products in Canada, by the interdiction at particular points for particular purposes of the great American capitalists, who form rings and corners of all kinds for the purpose of the disturbance of the trade of other people."

Mr. BLAKE.

There is the extent to which the hon. gentleman offered a tariff to assist the farmers. We do not hear now of the great principles so loudly declared in the speeches in the Eastern Townships and other parts of the country, in which it was pointed out that positive advantages in the disposal of the products of the farmers, that must seek a foreign market, were to be obtained from the new Tariff. But the farmer is now to be simply protected from loss by the interdiction of the products of those shocking American capitalists who invade our markets. We differ as to the remedy for that trouble. But the case of the farmer, under this fiscal system, is stated very much more modestly and moderately than at any former time. The First Minister has declared, like other Ministers during the recess, that the Tariff was "a revenue Tariff" in substance for the purpose of meeting our obligations that it was "essentially a revenue Tariff." I quite admit that in some of its provisions it is a revenue Tariff; in others, the greater part, it is essentially protective; and some, designed for protective purposes, have not quite fully accomplished their object. They are, in the meantime, productive of a considerable amount of revenue. But I believe the Tariff may be more properly described as essentially a protective tariff, and incidentally one for revenue, than essentially a revenue Tariff, and incidentally one for protection; and such it was described in the days when the virtue of such Tariff was lauded to the electors of the country before they had had experience of its operation. Speaking generally, it is expressly designed to check importations in favor of home industries. A tariff expressly chosen to check importations in favor of home industries, cannot be properly described as a revenue, but must be described as a protective Tariff. But it was not the First Minister alone who, during the late recess, illustrated the beauties of the Tariff. The Minister of Finance paid several visits to several points in Ontario, in which he discussed these subjects. I very well recollect that, during the peregrinations of the Finance Minister the season before last Session, when he visited some twenty different manufacturing points with a view to seeing how his Tariff was working, and how the manufacturers felt, and so forth, he announced, on more than one occasion, it was his intention this past season to take the farmers under his protectionist wing, and visit the rural constituencies, and see how the Tariff was working with them. We expected this year his visits would be devoted to that community; but, with one exception, the County of Prince Edward, I am not aware that the hon. gentleman carried out his intention. For electoral purposes he visited North Ontario and came back again; but for the purpose of investigation, which animated him in his other visits, as far as I know, it was only in Prince Edward that he visited the farmers. Now, why lose such an admirable opportunity of discussing the Tariff with the farmers? Why lose the opportunity of verifying by the facts which have occurred since 1878, the promises made to the farmers prior to the General Elections of that year? Why should he have avoided the delightful duty of explaining to them how the prices of their products had been enhanced: how the price of barley, for example, had been raised by the duty, and how other grains had been equally satisfactorily affected? I am sure I do not understand why, when the hon. the Finance Minister had proclaimed his intention to fulfil this duty, he should have so ill-performed it on this occasion. Perhaps he was waiting for a still more convenient season, when the times might be more propitious, and the arguments he might advance to the farmers be more plausible than they could be under the circumstances. I am glad he visited manufacturing points in the Province. The visits were extremely gratifying to the manufacturers, and acted as advertisements of the widest possible kind, of the establishments visited. I am extremely delighted to know that, in the constituency in which I am interested, two important industries have been visited by him, and through the