

Government that keeps the tariff up among the thirties or forties or fifties, on articles required by the masses ; the mere fact of our having manufactories in Canada that can make those articles for us is no advantage to the people, because the price is put up by the manufacturer to the level of the tariff. The manufacturer would be a fool if he did not do so. His object is to make the most money he can and to take the advice of the Government and put on all sail while the fiscal policy lasts. It is quite evident that the consumer must pay to the manufacturer the cost of the article plus the additional sum that he is enabled to charge through the tariff. It is so in all cases. It cannot be otherwise. You do not suppose that manufacturers are specially patriotic, or that they make their goods simply to sell to Canadians ! They do sell to Canadians if the Canadians will pay their prices, and their price is just the price that they can get for it.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Do they not compete amongst themselves ?

HON. MR. SCOTT—They do compete amongst themselves, but they all keep up to the level of the value of the article plus the tariff, otherwise we would not have anything brought in from abroad. I ask the hon. gentleman to say whether the import of cottons has continued in this country since manufactories for cotton have been established in this country ? If he consults the Trade and Navigation Returns he will find that we have been importing more cotton during the three years that the cotton manufactories have been in existence in Canada than we did the three preceding years.

HON. MR. MASSON—The people are richer and better able to buy.

HON. MR. SCOTT—Where does the wealth come from ? Is it from the manufacturer ? Will the hon. gentleman tell me that the fact of having manufactories at Cornwall, and at Valleyfield, and at other points is benefitting the great bulk of the people in this country ? No, it is not even a "fly on the wheel."

HON. MR. MASSON—Will the hon.

gentleman explain how the people can pay more if they do not earn more ?

HON. MR. SCOTT—I have endeavored to show that when the inflation came in 1879 we had added some 65 or 70 millions of dollars to our wealth from the raw products of Canada ; that the people of the United States and England were enabled to purchase from us our products—the products of the farm, the forest, the fisheries and the mines—not the products of the manufacturers ; they never moved out of the four millions that have been quoted from year to year. If the hon. gentleman looks at the Trade and Navigation Returns he will not find at any time that there has been an excess of manufactures over the four millions. While the whole volume of trade has moved from seventy millions to over one hundred millions, he will find that that particular item has remained stationary. No sort of stimulus will enable us to make cotton either in quantity or cheapness that will induce people abroad to purchase from us ; therefore our ability to pay this increased burden is due entirely to the sale abroad of our natural products. And the reason is not hard to find. You have only to look at the trade year by year in this country in the special items to which I have directed the attention of the House. But it is a large subject, and it may need an apology for somewhat digressing, though I could not afford to allow the first or second paragraph of the Address to go wholly unchallenged, in which the Government assume that we are to be congratulated on our prosperity. Canada would be at all times a prosperous country if she were not unduly oppressed through tariff laws. We can stand the squeeze probably better than almost any other country in the world, but I hope that squeeze will be at some remote distance ; still the Government themselves have called attention to the fact that there is a disturbance in the trade of this country. I have called attention, from my standpoint, to where that disturbance owes its origin ; I have pointed out that that disturbance is much more serious than the Government are inclined to imagine when I have shown to this House the increased number of failures, treble in amount in two years (a very large increase) and when I have called attention to the shrinkage in