

ed, it contrasts as does the giant oak with the sapling juniper."

Now, this is a metaphor I do not understand. Which year represents "the giant oak" and which year represents the "sapling juniper?" This must be understood to know what the commissioner means by this paragraph. While he is disposed to attribute all the difficulties to the depression in the ship-building and lumbering interests, he actually sets forth in his statement the fact that there are more men employed in those industries than there were in 1878. Then he speaks of the bad crops of the past two years. In the speeches put into His Excellency's hands the past two years, at the opening of Parliament, we are told what fine crops we have had; but the commissioner sent out by the Finance Minister to report on all those things, says that the crops have not been good. In his remarks on the cotton industry the commissioner says:—

"This industry has for some time been in rather an unhealthy condition. The decline is due to a number of causes. First, to the failure of certain important crops for a couple of years, and to the depression in the lumber trade."

It is a singular fact, however, and I wish to call the attention of the hon. gentleman from Victoria to it, that the lumber export last year has been very large. It was not very remunerative, but the freights were very low, and spruce logs sold at about \$7.50 per thousand feet at St. John, whereas in 1878 they were only worth \$5 per thousand feet. I mention that as a very significant fact, and yet we are told by the commissioner that the decline in the lumber trade is the cause of the depression in the cotton industry. That cannot be the cause, because the lumber exports have been large, according to the return, and the number of hands employed were larger last year than in 1878. The commissioner goes on to give a second reason for the depression in the cotton trade, as follows:—

"Secondly, to the miscalculation of manufacturers as to the consuming powers of the world's cotton centres in a time of short crops and general business depression."

Some of my hon. friends who have invested largely in the cotton industry, will examine this statement with great care; it

will require a great deal of study in order to understand it. He continues:—

"Thirdly, to the large sameness in the cotton product of the Dominion, and the shortsightedness of usually shrewd men, in overlooking the variety requirement when taking advantage of the stimulating influence of the tariff; fourthly, to the too great dependence placed upon special centres to distribute the manufactured goods, and the inadequate efforts to secure more extended markets; fifthly, to the high price ruling for raw cotton, due to the shortness of the cotton crop of the past year or so, and the brisk demand for raw cotton by producers, who, blind to a state of facts with which they should be familiar, kept glutting the market and burning their fingers; and lastly, to the depression in trade generally all over the world."

The tariff is not blamed for anything. Then, referring to the boot and shoe industry, the commissioner reports:—

"The boot and shoe business in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia is not so flourishing as in some former years. The general depression has retarded its progress, and over-production, which gives rise to keener competition, has cut into prices. Employers and workmen suffer in consequence, and the general public enjoys only a seeming benefit. Complaints among employers as to the National Policy are neither very numerous nor very serious."

The boot and shoe industry was a healthy, prosperous business before the National Policy was introduced, but our province has been made a kind of sacrifice market for the surplus stocks of the Montreal manufactories, and the New Brunswick manufacturers probably suffered thereby. The complaints among the employers, he says, are neither very numerous nor very serious; but he admits enough to show that the manufacturers are not satisfied with the result of the tariff. Referring to the clothing industry, he says that that trade "is affected injuriously by the general depression, and to a very considerable extent." Commenting on the bread, biscuit and cake industry of St. John, the Commissioner says:—

"The bread and biscuit bakers, in some few instances, object to the National Policy *in toto*; but, in the majority of cases, they only look upon it with disfavor so far as it affects the price of the material used in bread-making, for which it is alleged, they realize no adequate return from the consumer."

The hon. gentleman from Lunenburg