

of distressed manufacturers opposing the lowering of the tariff on the respective articles in which they were interested. I must admit, Mr. Speaker, if that is to be taken as a conclusive reason why protection, either in the United States or in Canada, should be abolished, that never at any time can we hope to abolish it, because, as has been pointed out, the manufacturers of Canada not only availed themselves of the opportunities that were given to them by the travelling inspectors of the Government, to show why the tariff should not be reduced, but came down here in hordes to prevent the Government giving, as they had given, some reason to suppose that they intended to do something to relieve the country of its burdens. In this respect, I was somewhat amused by the hon. First Minister's reference to an interview which is said to have taken place between some of those rapacious manufacturers and the hon. member for South Oxford, in which that hon. gentleman told them that they should go to the father of all evil. Well, I must say, Mr. Speaker, that those manufacturers seemed to have had a great deal of confidence in the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright); for, if we are to believe the statements of the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy), in the speeches that he is making throughout the country, they seem to have at once taken the advice of the hon. member and gone to the father of all evil, as represented by the great statesman across the way, then in search of a job, and they seem to have received that consolation from the father of all evil, as represented by the hon. gentleman, which the hon. member for South Oxford refused to give them. Now, allusion has been made in this debate to the journeys which took place during the recess by the members of this Government, who in this matter seem to take this position: We have not any particular views ourselves; at one time we were free traders, we adopted—as the hon. member for North Simcoe, then in their ranks, and perhaps as well acquainted with the motives under which they acted as any of them, has told us—we adopted protection, because we were led to believe that it might result in our return to power, not because we had any particular faith in the doctrines of protection; and to-day we are quite liberal in this matter: we would be prepared, if it were necessary to our salvation, to again profess the doctrines of free trade, and give to the people of the country the relief they are asking for; provided always that we were quite sure that the result in which we are most deeply interested, of our remaining in our places, would thereby be arrived at. And for that purpose, in order to investigate thoroughly the position of affairs, hon. gentlemen sent deputations of their number throughout the country; and even the small province from which I come was not neglected, and in course of time we had a visit, a very friendly visit, from the hon.

Mr. MARTIN.

Minister of Finance and the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Reference has already been made to the fact that the distinguished Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Angers), and I may add his colleague, the Minister of Finance, are able, from their superior knowledge of the principles underlying the great science of agriculture, to give to the farmers of the Northwest, who are, comparatively speaking, new to the thing—who are not as yet masters of the principles of that science—very valuable information and instructions as to how they can overcome the difficulties and evils in their way. The hon. the First Minister seems to take issue somewhat with the delegation, because he tells us that there are no evils in the way but that the people of Canada are quite prosperous and contented. However, his colleagues seem to have found some evidence in contradiction of that statement when they came as far as our province; and the Minister of Agriculture told our people that if they would only engage in mixed farming all their difficulties would disappear. He seems to have been so pleased indeed with this panacea, which he discovered in his pursuit of the science of agriculture in the library adjoining this House, that when he found himself in the neighbouring province of British Columbia, addressing a meeting there in a mining camp, he said: No doubt, you are somewhat hard up; no doubt the times are depressed; but I would advise you, if you wish to improve your condition, not to ask the Government to reduce the tariff, but to go into mixed farming. And I may say that his advice to the miners of British Columbia was quite as acceptable and quite as complete a cure for them as it was to our people. I may say that we do not require in Manitoba the advice of the hon. Minister of Agriculture or any one else as to the proper way to develop that country. The speaker who preceded me said that what the people of Canada want—and I can emphatically say that what the people of Manitoba want—is to be allowed to follow their occupations without any interference from this Parliament. And the people of Manitoba will undertake that that province shall be developed in the proper way. They will undertake that, as it is found from time to time, as necessarily it must be found, that one particular system of agriculture fails, they will be prepared, as fast as circumstances will allow, to take up new ideas, to go into new lines. But they ask emphatically that the policy of the Government shall not be such as to materially hinder them from taking up these new lines—from going into mixed farming, as the Minister of Agriculture suggests. It is very easy to say, go into mixed farming. I do not know that the hon. gentleman himself exactly understands what that means. What did he intend that we should do? Are we to raise cattle? We have been engaged—I suppose he knows—largely in the raising of