

country instead of doing it a service, but that we allow a certain amount of the stream to percolate over.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—Do you want to dam protection.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD—Mr. Speaker, if you were a magistrate I would take up the hon. gentleman for swearing. But I tell the Hon. Finance Minister that he admitted there was such a thing as a slaughter market, and he had too much reason to believe our market was occasionally used for that purpose. Now, our manufacturers may be interfered with by this slaughter process from other sources, as has been argued. When there is a depression of trade in the neighbouring country, goods must be sold; that happens also in our own country. We see frequently in time of great depression, similar to the present, when merchants are becoming insolvent, every kind of goods thrown upon the market, and slaughtered, so to speak, to the great injury of solvent traders. That cannot be avoided, and it is right that it has the compensatory advantage of giving cheap goods to the purchasers. But it gives no real compensating advantage for the permanent real injury that is done to the trade of the country by the ruin of those merchants, and by the want of confidence thus induced by the spread of ruin, for the actual insolvent whose goods are slaughtered will make other insolvents. But while we cannot avoid that, and it is greatly to be regretted that we cannot do so, we can, to a great extent, regulate our trade so as to protect our dealers against the depression which exists in the neighbouring country. When it happens that there is a forced sale of stocks in that country, in consequence of which the honest trader is compelled either to shut up his shop, or enter into competition with insolvent estates, it is possible so to regulate the tariff as to protect our own people. But besides the evil of making this country a slaughter market, there is another very serious one of sending goods into this country for the purpose of bringing down prices here, injuring our manufacturers, and driving them out of the market and afterwards getting control of the market. It is

said that such a thing never happened. Why, do we not see it happening in our own country? Have we not seen, for instance, one steamboat line trying to drive off another steamboat line for the sake of getting a monopoly? Did we not see the Syracuse salt manufacturers sending in their salt some years ago for the avowed purpose of destroying our infant salt works? Do we not see at this moment the ruinous competition of two cables from Europe to Canada? Do we not see the Anglo-American Company trying to sweep out the Direct? Do we not know that in England railways are run against each other at ruinous rates for the purpose of getting control of trade? And then there are combinations of workmen all over the world together with associations of employees of labor. We have also the Iron Masters Association of England, and the Iron Masters Association at Pittsburgh in the United States, both of which act as one man: and therefore it is not strange that persons in the United States think it to their interest to crowd our market with their goods for the purposes of destroying our infant manufactures. If this is permitted to go on, the confidence of our manufacturers is destroyed, and their capital lost, it may be years and years before that confidence can be restored and that capital replaced. In the mean time, we shall have come to take the goods of the foreign manufacturers at their prices.

We are informed in the Speech from the Throne that there is stagnation in trade. We are informed, also, that this has arisen, not from any fault of our own, but in consequence of the depression in trade that has taken place in the neighboring country. That is the statement which His Excellency the Governor-General was advised by the hon. gentlemen opposite to make to this House, and if it be true, I say that if there ever is a time when it is lawful, or allowable, or wise, or expedient for a Government to interfere, now is that time. Besides, the general principle which I have been advocating, that our manufactures, being in infancy, require encouragement till they grow to majority, there is this particular exigency to be considered. There is an avowed and admitted stag-