

and at the same time a letter to the Toronto "Mail," which, with the permission of the House—and I hope it will not be misunderstood—I will read. This is the counterfoil of the letter, dated October 30 1879 :

THE TARIFF.

To the Editor of the "Mail" :

Sir,—The practical action of Sir Leonard Tilley, in visiting the manufacturers of Canada, will probably result in some changes in the tariff. Permit me, through your columns, to suggest to the Finance Minister that an improvement might be made if iron were protected, not by a tariff, but on the bonus or bounty system. This form of protection was the form which, so far as young communities are concerned, commended itself to the mind of the late John Stuart Mill, and its advantages in the case of an industry like the manufacture of iron, and in our actual circumstances, cannot be doubted.

(1.) The manufacture of iron is the key to all other manufactures. Unless we can manufacture iron successfully, we may throw up the sponge. But the manufacture of iron requires large capital. The capital to work our iron mines must come from outside. Englishmen, accustomed to see strong governments overthrown by a gust of popular feeling, cannot understand how a manufacturer or iron smelter might have calculated with certainty on our present tariff for five years at least, and even could he grasp the rationale of our politics in this particular, he might well think it would take more than five years to turn a profit on a vast outlay. His fears under both heads would have been, and may yet be, relieved by voting a bonus to be given for the next ten years for every ton of iron manufactured in the Dominion. History proves that this policy is always successful, even in the face of adverse natural conditions.

(2.) The result of such a policy would be that vast streams of capital would flow across the Atlantic, and from below the line, stimulating commercial activity and enriching the whole population.

I venture to throw out these suggestions in the hope that the Finance Minister may consider them, together with those which his own energetic observation will have brought before him.

Yours truly,

NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN.

Toronto, October 30, 1879.

Well, Sir, that, if I may venture to say so, is in accordance with sound views of political economy ; that is also, if I may venture to say so, a logical and a rational proposition. But what have we here ? We have the Finance Minister taking off part of the moderate duty on iron, and putting on a bonus. That I hold to be inconsistent, because the bonus does not do away with the objections to the tariff that John Stuart Mill saw. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that iron enters into every manufacture throughout the country, iron is that without which we cannot succeed in becoming a great manufacturing country, and if protected at all, it ought to be protected by bonus. But what does this Finance Minister do but protect it at once by bonus and by customs duty ?

One word as to a feature of this tariff which has not been much discussed. The 16th clause provides that there shall be a Star Chamber established in Canada, that there shall be a court of politicians to try men who are suspected of going into combines. Now, Mr. Speaker, what would that be ? It would be a tribunal composed of party politicians, and a tribunal composed of party politicians will inevitably be a partial tribunal, it will inevitably look with more favour on those who belong to their party. I say this is open to the remark that it bears the character of a scheme to get hold of an enormous power for terrorizing the people of this country, prior to an election, into supporting the Government. We have some indications how this could be worked. We were told that iron was to be placed upon the free list by the Prime Minister. We have the hon. member for Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost) in this House, who is a manufacturer of agricultural implements ; we have the Massey-Harris Company who worked hard to help this party to get into power. We have at St. Hyacinthe at present a Mr. Boas, a manufacturer of knitting goods, and he contributed largely, as I am assured, to the campaign funds of the hon. gentlemen on the eve of the last election. Well, we have a bonus given for the manufacture of iron, we have the duty lowered on iron, and, therefore, a great change as to raw material in favour of the Massey-Harris Company and the hon. member for Leeds and Grenville ; but nothing of their protection is taken from the manufacturers of agricultural implements. Then, Sir, this Israelite indeed at St. Hyacinthe, Mr. Boas, who employs some 665 men, and who goes largely into the manufacture of knitting goods, he is benefited ; knitting goods are highly protected, and the hon. gentlemen have lowered the yarns that he imports to 15 per cent. With these facts before us, we have a flood of light on that 16th clause. Can hon. gentlemen expect us not to make every opposition we possibly can to a clause like that ? I may say that, properly speaking, it has nothing to do with fiscal matters, which are the sole property of this House, and if it should be forced through this House by a cast-iron majority, I certainly would hope that that portion of these resolutions would never be passed, and never became law in this country.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend for London (Mr. Beattie) has requested me to ask a question of the Government.