

man himself. He would take the liberty of refreshing the memory of the hon. gentleman by quoting another extract from one of his speeches. At Sarnia the hon. gentleman had said :

"From the beginning of 1873, it was quite evident that the United States manufacturers had, to a great extent, regained their lost position. In 1874 they were able to export great quantities of cotton goods to this country, and pay our duties. They were actually enabled to export cotton goods to the English cotton markets, which are supposed to rule the world. During the last few months they have been able to export refined sugar to the very heart of the refining portion of Great Britain, London and the Clyde, and between them and the French they have almost succeeded in driving the British refiners out of the market ! It was almost impossible that Canada could escape a considerable amount of suffering by this cause. The complaints of Canadian manufacturers have been that this has been made what is called a sacrifice market for these goods, and no doubt that has been productive of great provocation to our manufacturers, and injury to the trade of Canada."

Three years ago, the hon. gentleman acknowledged that the United States were making a strong competition to England, in the manufacturing industries, and that they were able to injure the commerce of Canada ; now he said they were ruined by Protection. Three years ago, according to the hon. gentleman, it was the American producer who paid our duties, to come on our market ; but, now, after the same authority, it was the Canadian consumer. For an adherent of absolute principles on political economical questions, that was a rather strange contradiction. But the hon. gentleman did not compare the distress alleged to prevail in the United States, with the one from which England was suffering, and for cause. For almost every day cable despatches were informing us that strikes occurred here and there, that wages were reduced, and reduced again to a minimum, that such and such establishments were shut in the different business centres of England. We did not hear of so much distress in the United States. It was not logical reasoning to quote two facts, and because they were contemporary, to say that they must be the result of the same cause ; or, because one was anterior to the other, to say that the latter must be necessarily the effect of the former. They must look at all the circumstances, consider all the phases of

the question. For instance, the great strike which occurred in Pennsylvania, a few years ago, and terminated in bloodshed, and which the hon. leader of the Opposition gave as an illustration of the evils of Protection, was posterior to the establishment of Protection in the United States and contemporary of its being continued in operation ; but that terrible strike was not the result of Protection at all. The strikers were not workmen in factories, but employes on railroads. Then there was no more protection for railroads in the United States than in Great Britain, or in any other country. As to the financial crisis, it was not either the result of protection to native industries. It was caused by that spirit of speculation which was so largely spread amongst the Americans to-day, and which had been so greatly stimulated by their long and ruinous Civil War. Railroad enterprises were especially the ground on which it had developed itself the most. Protection had nothing to do there. The signal of the discomfiture had been given by the heavy failure of Messrs. Jay Cooke & Co. That enormous failure of that banking-house, then considered one of the strongest, shook the confidence of the whole country, and damaged very badly its credit, and, as a natural consequence, it was followed by many others. Messrs. Jay Cooke speculated in railroad stocks, and were not engaged in industries. In spite of all the disadvantages under which the United States had been placed by the Civil War, which had burdened the nation with an enormous debt and heavy taxes, they had recuperated themselves very rapidly, thanks, in a great measure at least, to the protection of their native industries, which enabled them to increase considerably their power of production. They had reduced their national debt by over seven hundred millions of dollars ; they had reduced the internal taxes ; and, so abundant to-day was money amongst the American people that the Government of Washington withdrew hundreds of millions of dollars of its bonds from the markets of Europe, and asked its own people to subscribe for new loans, which they did, there being some days when several millions of dollars were subscribed for in a few hours. That

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