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**PIG (IRON) HEADED MR. LAURIER.**

What Mr. Laurier don't know, or don't think he knows about the manufacturing industries of Canada he is quite willing to supply from the resources of his fertile imagination.

In his speech at Galt a few days ago he declared that there was no manufacturer in that Sheffield of Canadian industry who would dare say that the workers of iron there were benefitted by the N. P.—that under that system the duty of \$4.00 per ton upon pig iron amounted to not less than 66 per cent.; and he explained that he made that assertion upon a statement that he once heard made in the House of Commons, that pig iron from Alabama could be laid down in Toronto for \$6.00 per ton. "Do you imagine," said he, "that the manufacturers of iron can be benefitted when they have a duty of 66 per cent. to compete against? Do you believe the iron manufacturer has much to be satis-

fied with and to be thankful to the Government for? I would suppose it to be good political economy for the raw material of the manufacturer to be free."

It is a favorite method of Mr. Laurier to attack the tariff in detail, and to allude to each and every manufactured article as being a "raw material," from which standpoint he endeavors to show that the consumers of such raw material would be benefitted if it were not subject to tariff protection. His effort at Galt was to show that pig iron, being the raw material of many of the industries of that town, should be duty free—that those industries could not be prosperous while having to pay a duty of 66 per cent. upon pig iron. It would not be saying much for the intelligence of the manufacturers of Galt if they could not immediately observe the speciousness and untruthfulness of the groundwork of Mr. Laurier's argument, and it is not saying much for the astuteness of that gentleman when he asked them to accept his conclusions, based upon such a flimsy groundwork. There were scores of manufacturers and business men within a stone's throw of where he stood who could have told him that there never was a time when Alabama or any other pig iron could have been laid down in Toronto or anywhere else in Canada at \$6.00 per ton, or for twice that sum. Mr. Laurier in making such an assertion certainly cared less for his character as a man of truth and justice than he did for what he thought a favorable opportunity to discredit the N.P. in the opinion of manufacturers with whom pig iron was a raw material.

It is remarkably strange that such an intelligent man as Mr. Laurier should stand before a Galt audience and use such language as the following, as he did do. He said: "I do not deny that the National Policy has helped the combines in the sugar and cotton trade, but it has injured almost every other industry. I denounce the National Policy, not only in the interest of the farmer, but also of the manufacturers, and I venture to say that with a revenue tariff which will make as far as possible all the raw materials free to the manufacturers, all of them, those in Galt especially, will be in a better position than they are to-day to compete in the markets of the world." Before allowing Mr. Laurier to stand before a Galt audience and talk such ridiculous stuff, why did not his political friends bundle him into a carriage and ride him around the town where he could observe some of the largest, finest and most prosperous manufacturing establishments not only in Canada but upon the continent. The intelligence of the proprietors of these industries, backed by the National Policy, made them what they are, and yet Mr. Laurier has the presumption to tell them that they don't know their business; that they are ignorant of their true interests; that the National Policy has injured their industries, and that in their behalf he denounces the policy as a fraud.

The fish swimming in the sea, the tree growing in the forest, the coal and iron in the unmined bowels of the earth—these and only these are raw materials, and Mr. Laurier's friends should so inform him. When human labor is bestowed in catching fish, in digging coal and iron, and in felling trees, the products of such labor are no longer raw materials but finished products, no matter what they may become in other industries, and this is a fact that should be communicated to Mr. Laurier by his friends.