

returns that not more than ten years ago \$250,000 worth of dairy produce was imported. The development of this interest is destined to bring about a revolution in agricultural pursuits, and it is proving not only a direct but an indirect benefit to our farmers; direct on account of the large amount of money which it brings to them, and indirect inasmuch as it is a means of causing them to improve and enrich the soil.

I heard a number of hon. gentlemen state that at all events Indian corn ought to be protected. Well, I find—and the statement I make here will be found correct—that we have produced for consumption in Canada 1,629,328 bushels of that product, costing \$891,502, or a little less than one cent. per pound; while the other coarse grains which have been exported by the people of Canada have realized one cent. and four-fifths per pound. The idea has been expressed that the coarser grains should be raised in this country, and Indian corn kept out by a protective tariff. Well, if that were done it would be a losing transaction to the people of Canada. However, I am not going to follow out that argument.

The hon. member for West Montreal has not given us a single particle of proof that the manufacturers of our country require protection. He stated that there is a depression. Well, everyone in this House admits that. But, Sir, we find that there is depression all over the United States as well as in Canada. In Philadelphia, at the present time, where there is perhaps more labour employed now than in any other city in the United States or in Canada, there is a large number of persons requiring employment and who are destitute for want of it. Again we see that at a meeting of the Board of Trade in Boston, at which the subject of the existing depression was under consideration, a reduction of the duties between Canada and the United States, instead of an increase, was proposed as a remedy. I hold that there is proof that the manufacturers of Canada are in quite as good a position as the manufacturers of the United States; for we find that a manufacturing institution in the

town of Dundas has just been purchased by Americans, who intend carrying on the manufacture of screws there very extensively. We find, also, that Americans are coming over to establish a musical instrument factory in the town of Guelph, and a large cotton factory is being organized near the city of Montreal, with a capacity of producing six million yards a year. Do the people who are engaging in these enterprises believe that the tariff of Canada is too low, and that the goods of the United States are being sacrificed here? In the village of Ayr there is one of the largest agricultural implement factories in the country, and I heard the proprietor of that state in a speech not long ago, that he was able to manufacture goods enough to supply his customers not only in the Canadian market, but in the United States to which he sent a large amount, notwithstanding a duty of forty per cent.

I am glad that the Government, instead of increasing the duties, have determined to reduce the estimates, and I believe that when the Minister of Finance stated that that was their policy, the statement was hailed with satisfaction by nineteen-twentieths of the people of this country.

Mr. ORTON—I regret that I cannot vote for the motion of the member for Montreal West. The hon. gentleman forgets that great depression exists, not only in the manufacturing interests, but also in the agricultural districts of the country. There are large sections in which the crops have been badly damaged by frost; and the farmers can hardly get a market for their coarse grains. I know that in the northern part of the County of Wellington there are a large number of settlers who have gone into the back woods and made themselves homes, but who this year are scarcely able to live. The manufacturers have shown a contracted spirit in this matter, and it is with considerable regret that I observe my hon. friend cannot look further than Montreal. He might have so framed his resolution as to meet with the approval of a large number in this House and country. It might have been so constructed as to do justice to the agricultural interests of the country