

Canada as an Importer and Exporter.

But let us see *what Canada imports, and what Canada might profitably make.* We are told that Canada could manufacture sixty million dollars worth of the articles she now imports. Well, in the first place there is every reason to believe that this statement is monstrously exaggerated; and that without an absolutely prohibitory tariff, Canada could not manufacture at the outside more than thirty millions worth of goods. This would give twenty-three thousand (23,000), instead of forty-six thousand (46,000) operatives, as claimed by the advocates of protection; and of all these operatives probably not one-third, that is about eight thousand (8,000) would be men, the remainder being women and children, often of very tender years. The wages of these people would not average more than from a hundred to a hundred and twenty dollars a year, if we pay them as in England, and the total wages which they would receive would probably be about three millions (3,000,000). Yet we are gravely told that, directly and indirectly, these twenty-three thousand persons, receiving wages to the extent of about three millions dollars (3,000,000) a year, would suffice to maintain an additional population of two hundred and thirty thousand (230,000) souls! If this be so, it would follow of necessary consequence that each of the aforesaid two hundred and thirty thousand would have to be supported on an average of from TEN TO TWELVE DOLLARS A YEAR! It would follow, also, that if it be true that twenty-three thousand operatives, of whom barely one third are men, and the remainder women and children, are worth a population of nearly a quarter of a million to the country, that the SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND able-bodied farmers, fishers, seamen, and lumbermen, whom the census returns showed to be employed in Canada in 1871, and whose wives and families are (at any rate in the case of the farming population), very considerably engaged in the actual work of production, should give employment to a population of FIFTEEN MILLIONS instead of three and a half. For surely if these eight thousand full-grown male operatives, *plus* their families, represent, as these people would have us believe, directly and indirectly, nearly a quarter of a million, it is certainly not too much to say that ten thousand farmers and their wives and families (who are quite as usefully and quite as profitably employed as the wife and family of any ordinary English operative), are worth quite as much. And few who know anything of the position of the yeomanry of Canada, and especially of the yeomanry of Ontario, will hesitate to say that every individual farmer and his family (in the province of Ontario, at any rate), add quite as largely to the national wealth, give indirect employment to quite as many people, and are capable of supporting quite as large a population, as any English family employed in factory work that ever existed. Similarly, if it be true that the manufacture of sixty millions worth of goods would give employment directly and indirectly to four hundred and sixty thousand (460,000) souls, it is equally clear, repeating the calculation as before, that the employment of six hundred thousand (600,000) farmers and seafaring men, would likewise give employment to about fifteen millions (15,000,000) of souls. Or, take it in another method of calculation, if the disbursement of three millions in wages is going to produce all these beneficial results, what injury would result from the violent subtraction from the earnings of the people of