

million of capital was interested in the works; and in 1874, there were manufactured in Canada, no less than 350,000 barrels of salt, equal to 98 millions of pounds. If they could only run on full time, the product would amount to one million barrels a year, sufficient to supply this country and the Western States also, if the latter market was open. These industries employed a large number of men, and had caused the establishment of large and fine foundries and cooperages in their neighborhood. Timber was required in great quantities for the barrels, and in this manner, the farmers benefitted to a great extent, owing to the existence of these interests, when prosperous. It had been said that manufacturers did not add to the well-being of the agricultural community; but this was not the case. Previous to the negotiation of the Washington Treaty a small duty was levied on imported salt, but it was removed in this relation with the understanding that the Americans would abolish their protective duty, but this had not been done. Our neighbours played a game of grab; they obtained every possible concession from this country but gave none in return. The Canadian industries would thrive with one-half the duty which impeded the exportation of our salt to the United States. The present price was very low; and the manufactories were not closed simply because if they were stopped the machinery would be destroyed by rust. The importation of Liverpool salt was the chief obstacle. It was to be remembered that England during the reign of King William imposed an enormous tax on foreign salt, about 22s. a bushel; in 1823, it amounted to not less than 15s., two years later it was reduced to 2s., and shortly afterwards taken off altogether. England protected her interests until they were firmly established; she now manufactured about two millions of tons per year, exporting of this nearly one million. One-half of the American duty was 35 cents per barrel—not too much protection to ask under the circumstances, our population being only four compared with the forty millions across the border. A small revenue

Mr. FARROW.

duty should be levied on both Liverpool and American salt. Free trade said that if they could not stand competition they could go to the wall; they only desired a fair field, and no undue favour. Our salt, made in Huron and Bruce—to this fact he called the attention of the Minister of Justice particularly—was the finest in the world, and for this he had the testimony of the most noted chemists, who proved that it was superior to Ashton salt, factory filled salt, Syracuse and Cheshire salt. As to any objections members from the Maritime Provinces might have to extending the protection required, he thought that Confederation was intended to bind us together commercially, hence Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward's Island ought not to trade with the United States in this relation. The Lower Provinces had rich coal fields. If that interest required protection, it should obtain it, but he knew that no industry was suffering so severely as the salt manufacture. Vessels taking salt to New Brunswick, could bring back coal, which was placed on board, he understood, at \$2.37½ a ton. He could promise for it under such circumstances, and they would be well paid if they received \$1.50 per ton for the salt, which could be laid down in Quebec and Halifax, at from \$5.00 to \$5.50 per ton. Coal could be taken in return at \$2.50 per ton, and sold at \$4.50 or \$5.00 in Toronto and Ontario generally. That would be as cheap coal as we could get in the west from the United States. Would it not be better for us to leave our money in our own country? That was the true national policy; the other policy was one which would ruin the Dominion.

There had been a good deal said about increasing the cost to the consumer, but it had been admitted that the late advance of 2½ per cent. in the tariff had not produced that effect. The only result of it was to diminish the profits of the middlemen. A small duty put on salt would not increase the cost of that article to the consumer. The high duty in the United States had not been attended by any such result, the competition between the Syracuse and the Saginaw