

asserting, on the one hand, that forty millions of people were to be coerced by four millions, and with the same breath, alleging that those forty millions were able to manufacture so cheaply or so successfully under the policy they had carried out, that they were able to sweep the markets of the world with their products, and even to invade Free-trade England herself. They were asked to suppose that, in order to obtain the Canadian market, those forty millions of people, who were able, according to the right hon. gentleman, to compete with the cotton lords of Manchester, the iron workers of Middlesborough; to fight, on their own ground, the producers in England and other nations, were to be coerced by four millions of people into altering their tariff, not in the interests of Canadians alone, but in the interest of the whole world; to come down on their knees before the right hon. member for Kingston, and pray him to admit their products into the Dominion. That was the proposition, and that was the policy that was foreshadowed. But the right hon. gentleman's speech was founded upon an entire fallacy. It was founded throughout upon the assumption, as far as what might be called the Free-trade argument was concerned, that Canada was a Free-trade country. It was all very well to talk of the effects of Free-trade in England—and he would have a word to say on that point presently—but when they talked of the effect of Free-trade in England they were not speaking of the effect of anything of which they had any knowledge. The Dominion to-day had a high protective tariff, one which would be a reproach to her if it were not for her contiguity to the United States, and one so high that, according to the most eminent authority on commercial matters in the House, the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Macdonald), the manufacturers of Canada had virtually a protection of 30 per cent. When he listened to that speech, and heard the calm and temperate manner in which it was delivered; when he knew the independent position that hon. gentlemen held in the House, he thought it should be printed in letters of gold, and handed

MR. DYMOND.

to every dupe of the right hon. member for Kingston, who fancied, in the first place, the right hon. gentleman was about to give him Protection; and, in the second place, if he got Protection, he would derive one dollar of benefit therefrom. He would like to say a word or two about his old country.

MR. BOWELL: Where is that?

MR. DYMOND: I think the hon. gentlemen knows pretty well where it is.

MR. BOWELL: It is here, is it not?

MR. DYMOND said he confessed he could hardly speak with calmness when he heard such statements as were made by the right hon. member for Kingston, last night. It was a painful thing to anyone who knew what England was to hear of the distress prevailing at this moment. Those who, like himself, had been accustomed to mingle, in the old land, with all classes of people; those who had not moved only in aristocratic circles, but whose lot had been cast among many who lived by the labour of their hands, knew how much trouble a period of depression caused. There were hundreds of thousands of people who earned only just sufficient to satisfy the needs of life even in the best of times, so that a slight check to industry would send up a cry of anguish from one end of the land to the other, and a few months of depression, the stoppage of a few mills and factories, the failure of a few of the great leading manufacturers, was an event, to anyone who knew its consequences, which must be contemplated with feelings of the deepest sympathy. If he thought for a moment England must go back on her Free-trade record; if he thought many of those who at that moment were suffering—if the children who were crying for bread to fathers and mothers who had none to give them—could be relieved, or that, from this country, we could set an example that would even tend to alleviate that misery, he would surrender every Free-trade principle he had ever held, and let Protection take its course in order to save them from destitution. But it was not true that Free-trade