

far as possible the laboring classes. See in what way they can assist our industries by taxation on imports. They could, in some instances, as in the United States, put on a duty of over 50 per cent., and in others reduce it far below 17½. But instead of doing anything to relieve the people from their burthens, they fold their arms and live sumptuously from the public chest. When we find that they have, corruptly, might I say?—I will say—illegally interfered with the independence of Parliament; and hear them say we must trust to Providence to get over the depression in trade, I say the Government are not doing their duty to the people in the manner that will be acceptable to the country. The patriotism of the country must be appealed to to help itself, and other men be found to form a Government who will put their shoulders to the wheel to meet the depression.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE.—I think that the House has occasion to congratulate itself upon the general tenor of this debate. Considerable light has been thrown upon the questions which have occupied the minds of thoughtful men throughout the Dominion. Several gentlemen have taken occasion to speak in very appropriate terms, in which I fully concur, of the loss which this colony will sustain by the departure of the British nobleman and his Countess, who are so soon to leave us and return to Europe. Perhaps, not the least important portion of this debate has been that which relates to the causes of the prevailing depression. It has been asserted with confidence by gentlemen on the other side of the House that the depression continues. I concur in that, but not in the views which those gentlemen have expressed upon its causes. I noticed that the leader of the Opposition was less precise as to those causes and the remedy which should be provided. Feeling, no doubt, the future responsibility which might attach to him, as leader of this House, he has wisely abstained from giving expression to his views as to the best mode of healing the depression. The gentleman who followed him, however, treated the question in a speech of great candour and ability from his point of view. I venture, however, to disagree with him. I venture to say that he takes a view of the question which is not correct. If you wish to heal the depression in any parti-

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cular interest of the country, you must first acquaint yourself thoroughly with its origin and history, and the causes of that depression. You must examine into the industry itself, and see whether it is conducted with due economy and skill, and then you will arrive at just conclusions. Very often it will appear—as in the case of many of our interests—that the causes of the depression are far beyond the control of any Government or legislature that can deal with them. I remember when I first came to this city, five or six years ago, I was told that the lumbering interest of the Ottawa Valley was in a most flourishing condition, and gave employment to twenty thousand men. I saw that those men came down to the city and spent their earnings freely in the stores, and the store-keepers received them with open arms, of course. Their labor was very productive, and soon they sent down larger quantities of lumber than the market required. Since then, the lumbering interest has been in a very depressed state. It would be wise before charging the Government with incapacity for not relieving the depression, to have investigated the matter more thoroughly. The subject is not so very difficult to enter upon, and even with my limited experience I think I could throw some light upon it. I will attempt to do so. It seems to me about the time the lumber interest was in such a flourishing condition, the people of the United States were recovering from a state of warfare. They were with their means set loose from the civil war in which they had been engaged, with their military and naval forces released—settling themselves down steadily and nobly to the business of life, and the grand resources of their country attracted from Europe something like a thousand immigrants a day. Many of those emigrants went west; they required to be housed and would need as much lumber as would build a new city every year, besides which they were large consumers of lumber in other ways. At home, also, we were large consumers of lumber. Is it now the case that a thousand emigrants per day cross the ocean to America? Is it true that there is as much lumber now required for the houses of emigrants as would build a new city every year? Everyone knows that not only has immigration into the United States dwindled to very small proportions,