

It is no use trying to grow the plant of commerce by the aid of the expensive manure of subsidies. It wastes the substance of the people in uncertain speculations.

It wastes the substance of our country to-day in bolstering up industries and supporting institutions that are not able to stand upon their own limbs.

Sometimes, they tell us, that our Canadian industries would not be able to take care of themselves. Sir, I do not endorse that doctrine. Let me quote one example—and I have to acknowledge my indebtedness again to the Toronto "World"—to show what is done every day by Canadian industries which have never asked the Government for drawbacks on goods which they have exported, but who honestly consume Canadian iron in their industry and pay the burdens that were imposed upon them, and sell their goods to the community in open competition. Here is what the Toronto "World," in the month of March said with respect to one of these industries. Speaking with the representative of a new establishment in Toronto that was entering into the manufacture of bicycles, it says :

I am every day becoming more firmly convinced that we can manufacture bicycles and machinery just as well and cheaply in Canada as in any other country in the world. In proof of this I may say that we have just received from Messrs. Bertram & Co., of Dundas, a consignment of lathes, special tools and formers for use in the manufacture of our bicycles, which cost us one-third the figure tendered by some of the leading United States manufacturers. These tools and machines were made from the models of these in use by the Beeston, Humber Company, of England, acknowledged to be the most accurate and perfect in design, perhaps, in use at the present time. I sent the same specifications that went to Bertram & Co. to the United States firms, and the difference in the tenders sent in fairly staggered me. I can tell you. We, of course, then awarded the contract to the lowest tenderers, and we are now more than pleased at the manner in which the Dundas firm carried out their work.

Here is an establishment that has not asked to be bolstered up and protected. They are friendly to the National Policy, staunch supporters of it ; but, in the face of all those facts, here is the evidence that they do manufacture successfully to-day, and that they put cheaper goods upon the market than can be bought on the American side. These are men who have pluck sufficient to attend to their business, and they do not belong to that type of manufacturers who have to go around and lean on this Government for aid and support.

Sir, with respect to the question of how Canada should be developed and our industries advanced, I want to present the House with a quotation from a journal that has never been accused of being Liberal in its political antecedents or associations, and which has been known as the organ of a section of this

community which has been solidly and staunchly Conservative. Let me read from that article briefly, for the information of the House. I think it puts the question in better form, and it answers the statements of hon. gentlemen opposite much better than I can do. It was dated the 14th March, 1895, and it says :

Canada ought to be one of the greatest and most progressive nations of the world. The Dominion covers one-fifteenth of the earth's surface, embraces about 40 per cent of the British Empire, and is only exceeded in extent by Russia, and its resources are in keeping with its extent.

But it does not progress as it should. We are supposed to have drawn 800,000 immigrants from Europe in the ten years ending 1890, yet our net increase of population was only 500,000 as against 19 per cent in the previous decade.

There are several reasons, but the chief one after all for the slow advancement of Canada is found in the trade conditions that exist.

We want consumers for the products of our fisheries, forests, mines and farms far beyond the capacity of this country to supply.

This want could be supplied by the United States to a certain extent, but their terms—free trade with them and discrimination against the mother country—are such as no loyal citizen of the Empire could accept.

Across the sea, in the British Isles, is a market for all, and more than all, that we can produce. Why do we not furnish a larger portion of her supplies ? Because it is a natural law of commerce that trade cannot flow all one way—one nation cannot sell to another without buying something in return.

And as we in Canada by an almost prohibitive tariff on British goods restrict our purchases in Great Britain, we, by that very act, restrict our sales to that country also.

What should be done, therefore, is to make a sweeping reduction in the customs duties now levied on manufactured goods imported from the United Kingdom. The adoption of this policy would vastly cheapen many articles that are used daily by our people. It will, by increasing our purchases in the mother country, add to our sales there as well, and it will make the cities of Canada the purchasing market for hundreds of thousands living just across the border.

Two objections to this policy may be anticipated. The alleged difficulty in raising a revenue and the interference with local manufacturing enterprises. In reply to the first objection : The increase in the consumption of British goods would more than make for the national treasury for the reduction in the rate of customs taxation, besides reducing the expenses of the Government. Canada is offering \$750,000 of a yearly subsidy for a fast steamship service on the Atlantic, and the treasury is now being drawn upon for what is virtually a subsidy to increase our butter exports to England. Withdraw the artificial barriers against trade with the mother country erected by ourselves, and there will be a sudden bound in the commercial intercourse between us that will make both of the above expedients unnecessary.

Sir, that is not my language. That is the language of the Orange "Sentinel," a journal which has never been accused of Liberal proclivities. I commend it to the gentlemen opposite who are wandering around in the gloom and darkness of the past by-gone years, wondering what free