

advantages are not equal as respects the cost of labour and material, but because while we admit their goods at a rate of duty varying from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 15 per cent (leather and shoes excepted), we are met with duties ranging from 30 to 40 per cent. It is this which compels the Americans to take our gold when our produce will not meet our imports. If England had made these arrangements for us, it would have been sufficient to raise a rebellion, but because she permits us to make fools of ourselves we are a "loyal people." Let us be thankful that it is in our power to remedy the evil, and when Parliament meets we trust no subject will be more thoroughly discussed than our trade relations with the United States.

On this subject the following extracts from the return of the select committee, to enquire into the causes of emigration from Canada, will be read with interest.

In answer to the question, "Would the establishment of different branches of manufactures, in the part of the country where you reside, have the effect of arresting the emigration thence to foreign countries?" we find the following answers:—

The second cause of emigration, namely, *the inadequate remuneration for labour*, requires a remedy, evidently of a more complicated kind. In the face of the opinion generally prevailing among the class of persons who exercise the largest influence in the management of the political business of the country, on the best means of promoting the welfare of the Canadian people, it would seem at the first glance nothing less than political heresy, to venture any suggestion at variance with the doctrines of free trade. Yet the experience of a few past years, in which an immense amount of capital has been brought into Canada, and expended in building railroads, should serve to convince us that the present laws which regulate our commercial relations are expressly calculated to drain our country of every thing in the shape of capital. Notwithstanding the immense sums imported and applied to the construction of our railroads, and the repeal or modification of the Usury laws, a measure of financial reform from which great wonders were expected to result, money is now worth in Canada from 10 to 20 per cent. What can be the cause of this extreme scarcity of coin, if it is not the facility with which it escapes from the country? Can it be otherwise, while nearly all the articles manufactured which we purchase come from foreign countries? Under our present commercial system, our traders are merely the *agents* who serve the English, American, and other manufacturers to drain the country of its capital.

The means of giving employment to our laboring classes is the increase of our home manufactures, but they require protection from the ruinous competition of foreigners, to be enabled to afford remunerating wages to their workmen.

The great step to the establishment of manufactures in the country would be the adoption of a fiscal means of rendering them certainly profitable. It is assuredly not by encouraging the importation of foreign productions that we shall succeed in giving an impulse to our own power of producing. Competition is said to excite emulation, and it is true; but it should be premised that the competitors stand on equal ground; that the manufacturers, for it is their case which we illustrate, should be placed, in respect of their means of producing and selling, in exactly similar circumstances. The infant manu-