

My answer to this is,—that undoubtedly by the establishment of any kind of manufacture requiring the employment of a large amount of labour is in itself a good thing in a poor country, but if this class of manufacture has a tendency not only to waste natural resources but to kill another manufacture of more permanent character, there can be no difficulty in coming to a correct conclusion on the subject.

Now, the export of Bark and Bark Extract not only denudes the country of its Bark, which might give employment for an indefinite period to a large population, but helping foreign tanneries it inflicts both a direct and an indirect injury on our own manufacturers of leather, and thus inflicts permanent injury on the country. It has besides the enormous disadvantage of wasting the timber, which is daily becoming more and more valuable in the absence of pine. The gradual cutting of Hemlock timber to supply our home tanneries with bark gives at the same time a fair amount of timber to meet the ordinary demands of home consumption, but the wholesale destruction of the forest to obtain the supply necessary for the export trade in bark, leaves countless trees to rot in the woods.

As representing a large estate consisting for the most part of wild lands, it might at first glance be considered that the interests of my employers would lie directly in the way of getting these lands into the market as soon as possible, and there can be no doubt that the demand for Hemlock Bark makes many lands immediately valuable which otherwise may remain on our hands for some years.

If this argument be sound, it will at all events shew that in thus arguing against what may be thought the interests of my employers, I may claim the merit of being disinterested. I prefer, however, the broader view of all such questions. What will tend to the welfare of Canada, and especially of this section of the Dominion? Will permanent manufactures, employing large capital, and using with care and economy the great natural resources, which we find at our hand, or will evanescent manufactures, which although giving present, large employment, yet waste our natural resources, and at the same time help the foreigners to compete with our own manufacturers, best serve the interests of this country?

If our young men are to be kept at home, we must have employment for them, and it seems to me far wiser to manufacture leather in Canada, than to strip our timber of its bark, export that bark or the extract derived from it, and leave the timber to rot in the woods, whilst we build up foreign manufactures to compete on exceptional terms with our own.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. HENEKER.