

in the foreign market so much the less able to compete in it. It follows pretty evidently from this that the gain of the few manufacturers working under the shelter of a high tariff, would be the loss of the people at large, and especially of those whose success depends upon markets outside of Canada.

The tariff has already done much towards the fostering of certain branches of manufacturing industry; and there does not appear to be any disposition to reduce the measure of protection now enjoyed. A margin of fifteen per cent. is sufficiently large to make any healthy industry prosperous; anything which requires more ought to be abandoned; and if the necessities of the revenue require a higher rate of import duties then the increase should be accompanied by an excise duty. There may be exceptional reasons for a small tax on coal and breadstuffs, because of the peculiar position of the Maritime Provinces towards the rest of the Dominion. But even in these particulars there is great room for doubt. The duty on flour imposed in 1866 was so unpopular that it was repealed at the very first opportunity, and it is very questionable whether its revival would be better relished now. One great fact to be borne in mind with respect to this duty is that it will not increase the price paid to the producer, though it will undoubtedly add to that paid by the consumer. Canada has no field within herself to raise the price of her wheat, for the reason that she produces more than she consumes, and that the price of the surplus in the foreign market regulates the price of the whole. The duty which will raise the price of flour at St. John or Halifax, will not affect it at Montreal or Toronto, for the reason that Halifax and St. John cannot buy all that Toronto and Montreal have to sell. Then with respect to coal, it is equally certain that the consumer will have to pay the duty; or rather will have to pay an extra price for Nova Scotia coal proportioned to the duty. Some of the people of Ontario appear to think that they will profit by the duty on breadstuffs. Now, though that is very doubtful, it is certain that those who produce the grain are not the consumers of coal, and that to tax coal for the benefit of grain, or *vice versa*, is laying a burthen on the shoulders of one class for the benefit of another.

Protection by the tariff can seldom avoid this injustice. The interest protected draws from the public at the same rate over the actual value of the article as it is assessed by the tariff, so that virtually a duty is paid on the whole quantity consumed, while only that collected on the imported article reaches the public chest. But apart from this the "native industry" of Canada has its greatest interest in a low tariff and consequent cheap commodities. The people employed in agriculture, lumbering and fishing; the mechanics and artificers engaged in supplying their wants—in fact nine-tenths of the population—would suffer directly by a protective tariff, which at the outside could only benefit a few; and these few, men of capital quite able to protect themselves.

But there is one branch of native industry, or rather one department including several branches, which is not only not protected, but is placed at a most glaring disadvantage by the tariff, and yet the protectionists have not a word to say on its behalf. If the selfish clique, which a week or two ago assembled at Toronto and passed resolutions in favour of putting money into their own pockets at the expense of the public, had really studied the tariff, they would have discovered the class upon whose shoulders it pressed with unequal severity. Their having failed to point out this one weak spot ought to be held as evidence that they had not sufficiently studied the matter on which they presumed to pass an opinion; and consequently to diminish the value of their conclusions. The general manufactures throughout the country are protected by a tariff of fifteen per cent., with raw materials free. This, we hold, is quite enough. But the manufacturer of books, periodicals, and printed matter is not only not protected, but placed at a serious disadvantage. Printing-paper pays 15 per cent., and printer's ink is free; while books, pamphlets, and periodicals are admitted, otherwise than through the Post-Office, at five per cent. Here, now, in plain figures is the effect of this arrangement: Nearly all other manufactures have their raw material free, and are protected by a duty of 15 per cent., the printer has his main raw staple taxed at 15 per cent., and the finished work brought in against him at 5! Let us say that half the cost of a book is in the paper—a very moderate calculation—and let us dismiss the petty tax of 5 per cent. on type as unworthy of notice, we have then a *discriminating tariff* against the Canadian publisher of 7½ per cent., or, as compared with the protected manufactures, of 22½ per cent.! Yet in the face of this glaring injustice, the advocates of taxes on bread and coal have not a word to say for the printer or the bookbinder! There is yet a worse feature to this case, which shows how little the framers of our tariffs really study the industrial interests of the country, or perhaps we shall say how little they know about them, for it is more charitable to impute

their mal-administration to ignorance than design. "Type," the printer's raw material, is taxed at five per cent.; but electrotype and stereotype blocks—the printer's work *finished*—are admitted duty free! Add this to the other injustices previously pointed out, and you will find the Canadian book-maker at an absolute disadvantage of 12½ per cent., and a disadvantage relatively with other manufactures of 27½! To aggravate this injustice, the electrotypes which our tariff admits free are subjected to a duty of 35 per cent. by the United States tariff; and the books, pamphlets, and periodicals which our tariff passes at 5 per cent., our friendly cousins assess at the rate of 33½! When our friend Mr. Dunkin shall have the census of 1871 completed we shall be able to tell exactly how many, and what proportion, of the population are engaged in the printing and book-making business; in the meantime we challenge the protectionists to show a single branch of manufacturing industry employing a larger or more respectable and intelligent class of the community. Yet in the matter of fair play Finance Ministers and protectionists alike unite in doing them a most gross injustice. Surely the discrimination against Canadian industry in the matter of electrotyping and stereotyping is too glaring to be tolerated for another year; and if Sir Francis Hincks is the man we take him to be, the enterprize of the Canadian printer will no longer be systematically legislated against. The few facts we have pointed out are so plain that "he who runs may read;" and all we advocate is fair play and "no favour" to a most important branch of Canadian industry. The superior intelligence of those engaged in this industry is abundantly manifested in the fact that they live in the face of an adverse tariff, while other manufacturers only exist because of the protection the tariff affords them. Is it wise or patriotic in a Minister to sacrifice such a class because they do not complain? We do not ask that the tariff on paper or type should be reduced, but simply that printing in all its branches be placed on the same footing as other departments of Canadian industry. Surely this is a fair request.

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.

THE SENATE.

Tues., March 29.—Hon. Mr. McCULLY moved for a report detailing the circumstances of the arrival of the "City of Brussels" at Halifax. A report was in circulation that the captain of the vessel had put into Halifax to land a passenger suffering from small-pox, and thus avoid the quarantine at New York. A sharp discussion followed, in which Hon. Messrs. CAMPBELL, HAZEN and RITCHIE took part, and ultimately the motion was agreed to. Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said that a telegram had been received from a confidential agent of the Dominion Government, confirming the report of the shooting of a person at Red River by the insurgent Riel. The House then adjourned.

Wednesday, March 30.—Hon. Mr. HAZEN, in giving notice of a motion for copies of petitions from certain Halifax bankers respecting the currency Resolutions, spoke at some length on the policy of the Government towards Nova Scotia, and the proposed assimilation of the currency. On motion of Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL the Bill respecting the Powers of Official Arbitrators was read a second time. The House then went into committee on the Bill for the organization of the Department of the Secretary of State for the Provinces. Committee rose and reported the bill without amendment, and the bill was read a second time. The fourth Report of the Joint Committee on Printing was adopted, and the House then adjourned.

Thursday, March 31.—The report of the Select Committee on Contingent Accounts was adopted. The House went into committee on the Bill to extend the powers of Official Arbitrators, and after some discussion the committee rose and reported the bill with certain verbal amendments. After some conversation respecting the steamship "City of Brussels" at Halifax, the House adjourned.

Friday, April 1.—A motion made by Hon. Mr. WILMOT, for the appointment of a committee to examine and report on the public accounts, was withdrawn, the mover giving notice that he would renew it in another form. Hon. Mr. ODELL enquired why a reduction had not been made on foreign postage in New Brunswick as in other parts of the Dominion. Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said no exception had been made when the instructions for the reduction were issued. Hon. Mr. HAZEN moved an address for a copy of the petition and remonstrance from certain bankers in Halifax against the adoption of the policy for assimilating the currency. After some debate on the question of uniformity of the currency, Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said there were no papers to be produced on the subject. The House then adjourned.

Monday, April 4.—Hon. Mr. McCULLY enquired whether the British Government is preparing to send troops to the North-West. Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL could not give the information, but trusted that order would soon prevail at Red River. Several bills were advanced a stage, and the House then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, March 29.—The following bills were read a third time and passed without discussion: Bill respecting the Consisting Trade of Canada; Bill to amend the Act respecting the office of Queen's Printer; Bill to facilitate the signing of Military Commissions. The House then went into committee on the Census Bill. Hon. Mr. DUNKIN moved to add a proviso to the second clause, that the census shall be taken on some day not later than the month of June. Objections were made to this, as being too late in the year, and at the suggestion of Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, Mr. DUNKIN amended his motion, so as to read, "some day not later than a day in April." After some further debate, the motion as amended was adopted, and committee rose and reported the bill with the amendments, which were concurred in. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS moved the second reading of the bill respecting Banks and Banking.

After a short discussion it was agreed that the bill should be read a second time, and should be considered on motion to go into committee. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD then moved the House into committee of the whole on the Election Bill. Mr. FRAZER thought the changes in the bill would not prove satisfactory. He said each Province should have power to regulate the franchise for itself. Mr. MACKENZIE condemned the bill as giving improper power to the Government. The House then went into committee. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD explained the principles and working of the bill. Some discussion followed on the qualification of persons holding Crown lands, after which Sir JOHN moved the adoption of the first paragraph of the second clause. Dr. TERREN expressed his approbation of the principle of placing the control of the qualification in the hands of the Dominion Parliament and not of the local legislatures. He thought the franchise was too high, and held that the possession of lease-hold property for one year, in lieu of five, was sufficient. He approved of universal suffrage. A brief debate followed on the questions of universal suffrage and the five years' lease. Hon. Mr. DUNKIN said that the tenor of the discussion showed that the House wanted something simpler than this bill offered. He spoke at some length in favour of allowing the franchise to remain as at present, and concluded by moving that electors who vote for members of local legislatures shall also be entitled to vote for members of the Dominion Parliament. After some further discussion Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved that the committee rise and report progress, and ask leave to sit again. The motion was carried, and committee rose.

Wednesday, March 30.—Mr. BLAKE moved for an address to Her Majesty, praying for a measure to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament, providing that the Parliament of Canada shall not have power to disturb the financial relations established by the British North America Act of 1867 between Canada and the several provinces, as altered by the Act respecting Nova Scotia. He argued that the measure of last session was subversive of the spirit of the Constitution, and that the financial relations settled by the B. N. A. Act were settled finally, and in such a way as not to be disturbed by any act of this Parliament. He maintained that Confederation would not have been carried in any constituency of Ontario if it had been supposed that any alteration could have been made in the existing measure in respect to local expenditure being paid out of the general funds. He contended, then, that when money was voted out of the common funds for purely local purposes, there was a breach of the contract entered into by the several provinces. Mr. O'CONNOR was of opinion that the act of last session was a very wise measure, as it had prevented a rebellion in Nova Scotia. He regarded the motion before the House as exceedingly puerile, and said that if the House adopted it, it would stultify itself in a very absurd manner. Mr. JOLY said he had travelled through Nova Scotia last summer, and from what he had observed he believed that the people of that province had other causes for complaint than those which were removed by the act of last session. Mr. MACILL argued that the Nova Scotia Act was a violation of the British North America Act. Hon. Mr. WOOD contended that the act of last session was unconstitutional, but it was now the law of the land and could not be recalled. He repeated the arguments of the member for Durham. Mr. ARCHIBALD, in reference to the remarks of Mr. JOLY, said the feeling of irritation in Nova Scotia was only natural, and would wear away in time. He contended that Parliament was free to dispose of the surplus funds without violating any provision of the Union Act. He moved in amendment "that this House adhere to the decision of the Parliament of Canada at its last session, as mentioned in an act entitled an Act respecting Nova Scotia." After recess several bills were received from the Senate and read a first time, and certain private bills were advanced a stage. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD then resumed the debate. He contended that the Parliament had the power to legislate as it had done for the peace and order of a province, and that circumstances had justified its exercise. We had a clear and indisputable right to manage our own internal concerns, and do what we please with our own revenue. The hon. gentleman made a long and effective speech, rebutting the arguments of Mr. BLAKE, and concluded by moving in amendment to the amendment "that it is the undeniable privilege of Parliament to fix and determine the amount of all expenses chargeable to the public funds." Mr. MACKENZIE replied to the speech of the Premier, denying that he (Sir JOHN) had advanced any sound arguments in refutation of the views propounded by the member for Durham. Hon. Mr. HOWE referred to the remarks made by Mr. JOLY, expressing his belief that the irritation in Nova Scotia was fast dying away. Mr. BLAKE followed, making a general reply to the arguments of the Minister of Justice, and reiterating in great measure his previous arguments. Sir GEORGE E. CARTIER contended that Parliament had a perfect right to dispose of its surplus funds as it thought fit. After remarks from Messrs. MACDONALD, (Lunenburg) SCATCHERD, and SMITH, the House divided on the Premier's amendment, which was carried—yeas, 87; nays, 69. Mr. OLIVER then moved in amendment to the main motion that no further grant or provision be made in future out of the revenues of Canada for the support of the government or legislature of any one of the Provinces. This amendment was accepted by the Government and carried. Yeas, 134; Nays, 10. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved that the Speaker issue a writ for the election of a member for the county of Frontenac, in the room of the late Mr. KIRKPATRICK.—Carried. The House then adjourned.

Thursday, March 31.—After routine business, the Census Bill was read a third time and passed. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS moved the House into committee on the Banks and Banking Bill. Hon. Mr. HOLTON found fault with the bill as being incomplete. He characterized the compulsory keeping by banks of a reserve of Dominion notes as a forced loan to the extent of 5 per cent. on their capital. He also objected to the issue of small notes, and the provision exempting the Bank of British North America from the responsibilities to which other banks are liable. Sir GEORGE E. CARTIER said the member for Chateauguay limited himself to criticism without proposing a policy in lieu of that put forward by the Government. He contended that the scheme of the Finance Minister was the same as that of his predecessor in another form. He thought it safer for the Government to issue notes of small denominations than to give the power of issuing them to small corporations. Hon. Mr. HOLTON asked, why then give them the power of issuing large notes? Sir GEORGE CARTIER thought it would be better to have both large and small notes in the hands of the Government; but if the Government assumed the large and not the small, they would never reach the poor