

the manufacturing or the Western States ; or, suppose the establishment of an actual wall, as high and aseffectual as your Tariff wall, to keep all these within your bounds as you wish to keep out all foreign manufactures ; suppose you build a wall like that of China, not indeed to keep out invaders, but to bar your own citizens from transgressing your limits, and to drive them into the North-West, what would it do ? Certainly it would be better than their going to the United States, for to go there involves a positive loss to the whole Dominion of their resources. But it is no better for us, with reference to the early ability of the country, as a whole, to meet these burdens—it is no better for us that they should reside in the North-West than that they should remain in the older Provinces. In the most highly coloured view they will only be in one part instead of another part of the Dominion ; they will only be paying taxes in the East instead of the West. But talking of it only during the next few years, I do not agree that it is merely a transference of tax-paying power. I am convinced that the North-West settler, for several years, will not be a very heavy contributor to the net revenue of Canada. He is a new settler. He pays, the Minister says, an average of \$3 an acre for his land. At the end of the third year he pays four-tenths of the money and interest. He has to build his house ; he has to build his barn, and to fence his land ; he has to get his implements and his animals, and to maintain his family—in the homely parlance of our country, he has “hard scratching” before him for some years. It is true that the prairie has very great advantages in some respects. It enables you if you have capital and can lay out money, to fence in and sow very much earlier and to raise your crop very much sooner. But, on the other hand, the scarcity of timber, and so forth, renders the material required for the house and the barn and the fences dear, and that is what, I have no doubt, the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Mackenzie) meant, when he spoke of the initial difficulties of the settler, in the prairies of our North-West as compared with those of the wooded country. I expect to be called unpatriotic, because I tell a few plain truths, but those who are so loud in this kind of denunciation may

go on. I believe that it is not patriotic to be dishonourable. I believe it is not honourable to present false views of one's country to emigrants or others. We should not overstate, but fairly state the true position and situation of the case. But whatever refined diplomacy, whatever reticence we might, under other circumstances, choose to exercise, it is impossible, in reference to the proposals of the Government, on which we are asked to commit the country so deeply, to do otherwise than give the reasons why those proposals are not based on sound grounds ; and we must state circumstances which their high-toned patriotism might lead them to conceal, nay, perhaps even to deny. The free grant settler will not be, in early days, a very large consumer of dutiable goods. He will live as hard as he can, smuggle as much as he can, and smuggle a good deal, too, under the present Tariff ; he will, in due time, under the influence of that Tariff develop home manufactures. For I suppose that the North-West is not to be deprived of the beneficent influences of the National Policy—to find that they are to be our hewers of wood and drawers of water ; I suppose they are not to be doomed to that wretched monotony of life, and to be deprived of that charming diversity of occupation which is a chief argument for the National Policy, Under the hot-bed influence of the Tariff of high prices ; under the influences, whether beneficent or maleficent, of the National Policy, he will have his home manufactures. Since the hon. gentleman announces to us that the North-West is to supply us with a market for all time for our eastern manufactures, let us know how this fleece of Gideon is to be kept wet while all the rest is dry. It is quite true that in early years he will not have home manufactures, but these years will be the hard years for the settlers. They are the years in which it would be vastly important for his welfare to have, I will not say home-made goods, but cheap goods, to be allowed to purchase the necessaries of life at the cheapest rate, and in the market that gives the greatest satisfaction. But you encourage him in this way. You tell him we have established a Tariff wall, by which you must buy in old Canada, at our prices, what you require in