

the extent of our profit felt in this respect? In markets when it is cutures, and we would less ruined, by sudden ers of another nation, I notice that the Pre-op abruptly. I have a reciprocal extension some amendments in exchange of natural our natural pro- theless to be taxed agards manufactures, s a boon to Canada. rovements in the de- amendment I pre- such diversity of ex- hat, on our side, the vantages under the it is not so great a comparatively prosper- g further gains,—an is determined in the it is not so great a taking a greater gain, we will say, should erest have given in of their brain, the equired, to the devel- or the way in which not the agricultural he destruction of an Sir, that it is in this bia, in Manitoba, in ve shall consider it in ye to all the great ne to secure such make its provisions f the people of both mutually at stake. ment.

it is possible for one man to represent the interests of this great Dominion, is something inconceivable to me. Although a person may be well informed upon most of the questions that interest this young country, it is possible for him to be very ignorant upon some most important question. As an illustration of this I may mention that, on my return from the last session of this Board at Ottawa, I had a conversation with a gentleman who, all will admit, was a most influential opponent of the policy deliberately adopted by this Board. Endeavoring to belittle the manufacturing interests of the Dominion, he stated to me that out of a population of four or five millions of people, only ten thousand were interested in manufactures. Now, gentlemen, I do not think I am exaggerating—certainly not exaggerating my own opinion—when I say that one half of the population of this country is directly or indirectly interested in its manufactures (hear, hear). For instance, if we refer to the table of exports as furnished on the very good authority of the *Monetary Times*, we discover that out of about \$90,000,000 of exports only \$14,000,000 are agricultural products; the rest are made up chiefly of articles that form the industry of the country. Now, Sir, would it be believed that the gentleman who made this assertion was the one selected as plenipotentiary on behalf of this country in the present treaty negotiations? Allow me to say that I have no political motives in stating this. My political creed is very short—Canada is first (laughter); the Empire second; and our American neighbours, if they treat us fairly, the third. Nobody ever accused the gentleman to whom I refer of being ignorant on many questions affecting this country, and, I only mention this circumstance to show that the greatest statesmen may be ignorant upon some particular subject. I look upon the industrial question as a very important one at the present time. I think, therefore, it would have been better for this country if our Government had consulted some representative men connected with the interests to be affected by this treaty, before proposing it,—as I presume the Secretary of State at Washington did. If any such have been consulted in this Dominion, it certainly has not come to the knowledge of any of the Boards of Trade, which are to no small extent the representatives of manufacturing and commercial interests. In negotiating a reciprocity treaty, I would implore our statesmen to consider well, before interfering with any industry that is now in a satisfactory condition. It is prudent to let well enough alone; and I certainly think it is most dangerous at the present juncture to interfere with any industry that is in a paying condition. If we compare our position with that of the United States, I think we may congratulate ourselves on the fact that we have made far greater material advancement during the last decade, in proportion to our population, than they have; and if I had to make a choice, I should unhesitatingly cast in my lot with the four millions of people on this side of the boundary line, in preference to the forty millions on the other. What the future may have in store for us, of course we cannot tell; but for many years to come we will probably be in a far better condition than the United States. Forty millions of people, we are told, furnish a large market; but