

facture and support of the lumber interests and the articles required by the agriculturists had not been increased. If we take the statements of gentlemen we meet in the streets and hotels as evidence, any of us can furnish proof that the object of this movement is to increase the price of every manufactured article in the country. The hon. gentleman says that sugar is manufactured at a loss of 12 cents per 100 pounds. Suppose the Americans were excluded from our markets, the cost of sugar would be increased to that extent, and it is an article required by all classes of the community.

I do not understand the sugar interest, but it is evident from what I have heard debated by gentlemen intimate with the subject, that if an increase in the tariff on sugar takes place, those who consume it will have to pay two cents a pound more than they now do for it. There are two refiners in Montreal and I believe one in Halifax, and although I admit that these are important establishments, and give employment to a large number of hands, I ask, is it right to take one or two cents out of the pockets of the consumers of this country to support one or two institutions? My hon. friend from Montreal West says that if his motion is not carried he is going on a mission to convert the whole of the people of Canada to protection. Well, I think that if he does go upon such a mission, that it will be more difficult to convince the agriculturists that to put duties on the goods which they consume, which will only benefit the manufacturers of those goods, than even to secure the passage of such a resolution as that which he has proposed. I invite him to take the field in favour of protection, and I tell him that if he does, he will find that there are enough advocates of free trade in the Dominion to cover all the ground that the missionaries of his policy can cover throughout the length and breadth of the country. He says, and we see it in the press and hear it at every public meeting, that the people of the United States have slaughtered goods in Canada. Well, that may be the case, but I ask the hon. gentlemen from Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton,

whether those cities have not slaughtered more goods in Canada than the United States has done, whether they have not forced goods on the merchants throughout the country, and whether through the agency of the Insolvency Act of last Session those goods have not afterwards been sacrificed. Go into any hamlet town in Western Canada, and I have no doubt but it is the same in Eastern Canada, and you will see an auctioneer, or perhaps two or three, selling bankrupt stocks from Montreal, or Toronto, or Hamilton, and not American goods.

But supposing that the Americans do come in here and slaughter goods at prices ten per cent. less than they sell them for in the United States, who gets the benefit? Is it not the large consuming population? And are these people going to ask their representatives in this House to press an Act to prevent them from getting cheap goods? In my opinion it is impossible to benefit both the manufacturers and the farmers by raising the tariff, unless the cost of raw material and labour is reduced.

I have heard it stated in the course of the debate, and also outside of the chamber, that the agricultural interests, as well as the other interests of this country, should be protected; that the surplus of products of this country was very small, if there was any at all. Now, even if this were so with respect to flour and wheat, there is a good and sufficient reason for it; but I find, after going carefully over the trade and navigation returns, that we exported last year a surplus over and above our imports (if we do import largely of American wheat and flour) of 1,150,000 bushels, (in round numbers) realizing to the country \$883,000. The Dairymen's Association of Canada, with all the other dairymen, exported last year \$5,000,000 worth of cheese and \$2,500,000 worth of butter, besides which it is estimated that \$1,000,000 worth of those products were consumed in Canada, making the total value of dairy products of the country during the last season \$8,500,000. This is an interest which is growing very rapidly—more rapidly perhaps than any other interest in the country. I find on looking over the