

whose people were protected by a tariff which excluded us from any competition with them in their own market, while our market was practically free to them. He could not understand how any one in Canada could advocate the continuance of this *one-sided Free Trade policy*. The Americans alone have good reason to be satisfied with it. They reap all the benefits. He did not, however, believe that any one here wished for any such an excessive and indiscriminate high tariff as theirs. The enormous waste and expenditure caused by their great civil war, along with their depreciated currency, necessitated a high tariff, aside from the question of Protection. But, as already stated, he did not believe that Canada would be wise in following their example, and fortunately, the necessity did not exist. They are now considering and discussing not free trade, but freer trade in the admission of raw materials required for their manufactures at a nominal duty, or altogether free. Their currency has for the last four or five years been gradually approaching par in gold, and there has been in the same period an immense reduction in the cost of manufacturing every description of goods. The enormous strides they have made in their manufacturing industries were fully demonstrated at their Centennial Exhibition. The superior quality and finish of their goods, as well as their cheapness, were such as to surprise and alarm European manufacturers, and English exhibitors gave expression to their fears in the English press. They are now not only regaining foreign markets formerly possessed by them, and which for a period of about ten years, owing to their civil war, they had entirely lost, but gaining new ones, even in England, whence they are exporting considerable quantities of their cotton and other manufactures. Statements have been published by advocates of the present one sided Free Trade policy to the effect that comparing their present exports to those of ten years ago there is no visible increase, artfully ignoring the period of their civil war when there could be no exports. But taking that period into consideration the marvel is that they should so soon recover lost markets and find new ones. Finding a new market for manufactures, unlike finding one for produce, was always a matter of time and difficulty. Prejudices have to be overcome in displacing the goods which have had possession of any market, even by those which are better or cheaper, besides financial arrangements existing for long periods of time. Looking at the marvellous increase and excellence of their manufactures, no one can doubt that their exports will continue to increase year by year.

This is the country alongside which we are placed, and whose manufactures have been allowed under the present one-sided Free Trade policy to enter our markets at a nominal duty, while we are excluded from theirs by a prohibitory one, gradually displacing English goods of a similar class and destroying our young manufacturing industries. The difficulties and expenses attending the commencing of manufactures are much greater in a new than in an old country, and where manufacturing industries have been carried on for many years. You have inexperience to encounter, the want of skilled operatives—and no other will answer; these operatives have to be imported or trained. Importing means emigration to these operatives, and no man will emigrate unless with a prospect of bettering his condition, which means an increase of his wages. Training operatives to their work is an expensive process, it means small product of an inferior quality for a considerable time, which is simply ruinous. It may be said that those engaging in such industries should take these difficulties into account at starting, but he would venture to say that scarcely any one at first engaging in them did so except very partially. Then there was the important and vital question of market, and to this it may also be said that it should have been taken into account at starting; but he believed he was correct in stating that the whole of the manufacturing industries of this country were started at a time when the condition of the market was very different from what it is at the present time, otherwise the greater part of them would never have been commenced with the existing one-sided Free Trade policy. Our competition for supplying our own market was then with Europe—England mainly—we were prepared for that competition—which has always been a fair and legitimate one—but we were not prepared for the ruinous competition with our neighbours alongside of us, whose goods entered our market (a small one at best) virtually free of duty owing to the premium on gold which nearly paid our duty, for it is well known that the prices of American goods are not affected by the premium on gold. When their manufacturers could not dispose of the whole of their product at home at market rates, it suited their purpose to send the surplus to Canada or any foreign market at a considerable reduction from the prices attainable at home. Canada is thus made a *slaughter market*. The ruinous competition and fluctuation caused by sudden imports, whenever our neighbours may happen to have an accumulation which they decide to clear at a sacrifice price with-