

The period during which those interests have been most prosperous, has been since the close of the American Rebellion; in consequence of which the cost of production in the United States was greatly enhanced.

Since that time the Americans have been less able than previously, to flood our markets with their surplus products.

The general impression conveyed by the information which the Committee has collected is: That the present state of our manufacturing industry is not on the whole unsatisfactory, but that if imported manufactures, now paying fifteen per cent., were subject to a duty of twenty per cent., such alteration would give a great impetus to the manufacturing interests of the country.

The Committee would direct attention to other particulars, which, in their opinion, deserve consideration:

1. The Tanning interest, from all accounts, appears to be prosperous; but those engaged in that industry almost invariably protest against the large exportation of hemlock bark and its extract, which as they say threatens at no distant day to denude the country of that commodity, which is so indispensably necessary to ensure their future success. In view of that contingency the Tanners advocate the imposition of an Export Duty on hemlock bark and its extract.

It must however be observed that the opinions of the producers of bark have not been obtained by the Committee on this subject.

2. The manufacturers of cigars represent that owing to the large importation of German cigars, and the duty chargeable on them being only forty-five cents per pound, they are unable to compete with the imported article, and in consequence thereof a large number engaged in that industry have been obliged to discontinue. In the city of Montreal alone fifteen cigar manufacturers employing a large number of hands, were obliged to abandon this business, which under more favorable circumstances might be prosecuted with advantage. The manufacturers urge that if an increased duty were imposed on imported cigars, the manufacture of them in this country would be resumed with great vigour.

3. The manufacturers of cordage complain that the present Tariff arrangement operates injuriously to their interests. That while a duty of fifteen per cent. is levied on the imported article, cordage used for ships or vessels is admitted free. The result is that a large quantity is entered free of duty upon false pretences. One of the largest manufacturers of cordage in the Dominion, Mr. Stairs of Halifax, would prefer to the present Tariff, a uniform duty of five per cent. to be collected under all circumstances, and would be willing that even this small duty should be refunded, after proof had been furnished that the cordage so imported, and upon which duty has been paid or secured, had been "bona fide" used in the equipment of ships or vessels. The remission also of the duty of fifteen per cent. on dressed hemp, would in the opinion of some manufacturers promote the prosecution of this branch of industry.

4. The manufacture of pianos and other musical instruments, is becoming a business of great importance, and capable of great expansion. The remission of the present duty on all raw material used in their construction, such as piano wire, veneers, rosewood, &c., which cannot be produced in this Country, would in the opinion of the manufacturers, operate favorably to that enterprise.

5. The woollen manufacturers complain that a felted cloth made principally from shoddy, is admitted duty free, on the ground that it is felted and not woven. This felted cloth can be used for any purpose that their own heavy woven cloth may be used for, and therefore comes into direct competition with it.

The manufacturers of vinegar state that while the present Tariff of ten cents per gallon on imported vinegar would appear to be favorable to them, facts prove the reverse for the following reasons: The vinegar chiefly imported is called tripled. Vinegar of treble strength of French and German manufacture, each gallon of which bears the addition of three gallons of water. The duty therefore on the reduced article, would be only $\frac{1}{3}$ cents per gallon, while the domestic article is subject to an excise duty of 3 cents per