

of some congratulation that the Intercolonial is in a prosperous condition, yet I must say there is some alloy to that question, for being, as most of my countrymen are—a free trader—we wish to enjoy the privileges of free men, to buy in the cheapest market, or wherever in fact we are disposed to buy.

I observe that the Government intend to introduce to the House the subject of factory labor. Of course at this time there are none of us disposed to be very exacting in the matter of female and non-adult labor. It is a very injurious thing no doubt to a population, that mothers and young children shall be kept under the roofs of factories for a long time together, but at the same time we must remember that labor must be self-sustaining, and it will not do to be too liberal in this matter. Governments must be just before they are generous. I shall, myself, hail with great pleasure any bill coming before the legislature having for its object the securing of female and child labor in factories a wholesome atmosphere and freedom from danger of falling into machinery, or any object of that sort; but as to the hours of labor and that sort of thing, I think it is wise to reserve our independence of action. I believe in the United States the hours of labor are a great deal longer than in Europe. In England we know the hours of labor are limited and it has sometimes been felt as a grievance, when competition is threatened, that England has a limit in this matter while the United States is free. Nevertheless I shall be disposed, when this measure comes up, to give it my support.

It is no doubt cheering that the revenue has been productive, because there can be no productive revenue unless there has been prosperity, if not universal, at least pretty general prosperity, but of course the high duties which have been levied, in connection with large imports, must have produced a large revenue, and no doubt the Government have made a wise disposition of it; but when we speak triumphantly of a large increase of revenue, we must remember how this increase has been obtained. It has been obtained by a large increase of the customs duties of the country, and therefore has abstracted from the pockets of the people a large amount of their earnings. That they have been able to purchase a vast amount of foreign

goods is a matter that I think ought to give rise to grave consideration on the part of the manufacturers of Canada, who are congratulating themselves on the excellence and variety of their goods. It seems, notwithstanding the excellence and variety which are claimed for them, that after all the Canadian is bound to go back to the markets of the old world when he or the females of his family wish to be well dressed, and the consequence is, of course, this very large increase of revenue.

HON. MR. WARK—I do not rise to prolong this debate, for I see the hon. the leader of the House is very anxious to introduce some measures; but there is one remark I cannot allow to pass without a few observations: it is the sentence which states that the farmers of Canada have enjoyed a plentiful harvest and remunerative prices. I ought not to allow this remark to pass without observing that in New Brunswick they have enjoyed neither a plentiful harvest nor remunerative prices. Although I never saw some products bring higher prices than now prevail they have not been remunerative because farmers have not had those products to sell. Potatoes, for instance, never brought higher prices, but many farmers have none to sell, and some are even short of seed. The crop is a greater failure than I ever remember in New Brunswick, not even excepting the years of the potato rot. The remark also applies to the wheat crop which has been a failure and a very extensive failure. Many I think, have not received more than three or four times the seed that they sowed.

The grass crop, I may say in corroboration of what the hon. member from Prince Edward Island remarked, was abundant in many parts of our Province, but unfortunately the season was so unfavorable for saving that a great portion of it has been secured in bad condition and is very inferior in quality. I regret that the members of the Cabinet coming from distant parts of the Dominion did not take more care to enquire about these matters before committing themselves to such a statement. I see that the leader of the House is very anxious to introduce some measures, and as I sympathized with the leader of the Imperial Government in the ordeal he passed through not