

A country which has this skill and experience yet to acquire, may in other respects be better adapted to the production than those which were earlier in the field, and besides, it is a just remark of Mr. Rae, that nothing has a greater tendency to promote improvements in any branch of production than its trial under a new set of conditions. But it cannot be expected that individuals should at their own risk, or rather to their certain loss, introduce a new manufacture and bear the burthen of carrying it on until the producers have been educated up to the level of those with whom the processes are traditional. A protecting duty, continued for a reasonable time, will sometimes be the least inconvenient mode in which the nation can tax itself for the support of such an experiment. But the protection should be confined to cases in which there is good ground of assurance that the industry which it fosters will after a time be able to dispense with it; nor should the domestic producers ever be allowed to expect that it will be continued to them beyond the time necessary for a fair trial of what they are capable of accomplishing."

This is the principle laid down by Mill, the leader of the modern school of political economy in England, a Free-Trader in the best sense of the word. I say this extract I have now read applies to the circumstances of Canada. We are a young country, just emerging from the first struggles with the forest. We have but little realized capital as yet; the manufactures of the country, with a few small exceptions, having scarcely taken root. They are lying alongside of a country which has had the advantage pointed out by Mr. Mill, of having commenced first. The manufactures of the United States have been going on for a long period of time, and large amounts of capital have been realized: all these things we have to fight, in addition to the fact of our industries being in their infancy, and the other disturbing influences not alluded to by Mr. Mill, which add to the reasons why our manufactures have the same right to be encouraged that the child has to look to the parent for guidance until able to walk alone. Mr. Mills, the Free-Trader, goes much further than many gentlemen in this House who will vote against the resolution. He does not speak of a revenue tariff which would afford incidental protection to our manufacturers as being justifiable, but he lays down the broad principle to encourage native industries; if they are fitted for the circumstances of the climate, soil and people of a country, protection ought to be given, and is justified on

the true principles of political economy.

But we hear hon. gentlemen say it is not for the interest of the manufacturers themselves to have protection. It would create monopolies, and monopolies bring on apathy and lethargy. If Mr. Mills thought it was not in the interest of the manufacturers to protect them, he would not have said so in the passage I have read. He holds it out for the purpose of encouraging infant manufacturers in their struggling state, and lays it down that it is not only excusable and defensible, but justifiable. He thought reasonable protection would be for the benefit of the manufacturers themselves; but in this country we are not called upon to break our heads upon theories. We know perfectly well in the circumstances of this Dominion, a young country extending from sea to sea, almost without bounds, that the development and improvement of our resources, the great works that will be undertaken by the country, will be for long after we who are here will be no more, call for a large revenue. If this be true, as a matter of course in the adjustment of the tariff taxation should be so imposed as to do the least harm and the most good. We cannot have in a young and comparatively poor country like this, direct taxation. We have handed that source of revenue over to the Local Legislatures and municipalities. When you take our local rates and the certainty that in the not distant future the Local Legislatures must resort to direct taxation, you will see that source of revenue will not afford hopes of our being able to resort to it. We must trust to our customs, therefore, as the principal source of our future revenue. Now, what can be more reasonable than to so adjust the tariff for revenue purposes that it will enable us to meet our engagements, and to develop our resources, the duties falling upon the articles we ourselves are capable of producing. The Government of which I was a member since 1854 pursued the same course. They laid down this principle, that the taxation should be adjusted in such a way as to be as little burdensome as possible upon the people, and be placed on