

Free Trade vs. Protection.

The Tory newspapers, together with their army of pamphleteers, are daily consuming time and ink in efforts to induce the people of this Dominion to believe that an excessive tax should be placed on all articles entering the country, to such a degree—100 per cent. if necessary, as will prohibit the people from using anything from abroad.

We—an enlightened people, descended from the greatest commercial nation on the globe—we are asked to return to that relic of barbarism, the Chinese wall, to lock ourselves in and the rest of the world out. We are not to eat, drink, wear or sleep on anything that we ourselves have not grown or manufactured. We are not to have the liberty of buying a bed to lie on, or a blanket to cover our shivering limbs, or a single article to satisfy our wants,

WHERE WE CAN BUY THE CHEAPEST,

but shall be compelled to buy from certain rich monopolists that they may be made still richer. We are to be placed at the mercy of a favoured few—Farmer, Mechanic, Professional man, all to pay them tribute. Protection to our “perishing industries” is the cry of the Demagogue. No expression can be better calculated to arouse the patriotic pride of every true Canadian than this. Every man who has an interest at all in the country's welfare naturally becomes indignant, that, at this very early period of our nation's existence, we should begin to perish. Fortunately, however, it is well known that these paroxysms of protection occur only on the eve of general elections; and because the country has seen fit to take the custody of its affairs out of the hands of Sir John A. Macdonald and his followers, it is to go to ruin.

IS IT SO?

If any man of an ordinary thinking mind will quietly notice what is going on around him, he must at once see that Manufacturing in Canada is not “perishing.” The statistical records of the country show that in all branches of manufacturing we have steadily increased, and are increasing every day. We manufacture a greater variety of articles, make a greater quantity, and these of a better quality than we ever did before. The Dominion of Canada exported more manufacturers' product during the last period reckoned than during any corresponding period since Confederation. Everything points plainly to great improvements in our facilities.