

tal machinery, and commencing a system which on the whole works so well, and bids fair to be permanent. I take no part of the credit of this to myself. I was not at the time a member of the Government, but I feel that my colleagues have acted wisely—prudently and in the true interest of our Province in what they have done.

Although not perhaps strictly within the scope of the Quebec Legislature, still we will, I hope be able hereafter to do something towards the development of our mineral wealth—and the establishment of manufactories in our Province. With regard to the former the raw material, we have in abundance. In every section of the Province valuable minerals are to be found. The working of those minerals will give employment to a large number of our people—thus retaining them in our country. (Cheers.)

The want of manufactories in the Province, is the main cause, in my opinion, of the large numbers of our population seeking employment in the United States. I believe more than three quarters of our people go to the United States because of the employment afforded in the various manufacturing establishments which abound there. (Cheers.)

If Honorable Members want to prevent our native population from leaving the Province, and to induce those now in the neighbouring Republic to return to the land of their birth; If they want to attract skilled and intelligent labour in the various branches of mechanical industry; If they want to build up our Province in National wealth consequent upon the useful employment of skilled labour, in manufacturing pursuits;—Their efforts should be directed to encourage by every means the establishment of every kind of manufactures likely to prove successful. There is no question in my mind but that the prosperity of the country can be much augmented by a judicious expenditure of public money in aid of manufactories of various kinds.

We have not, it is true the imposing and collection of duties on foreign importations. We cannot by our legislation afford that protection and encouragement to manufacturers which they claim as a right, and expect from Government; and without entering further into the question at