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1676 NOTRE DAME MONTREAL

UNANSWERABLE.

J. J. Curran's Great Speech at Ottawa.

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

They go on to say that the result of this unrestricted reciprocity with England, had affected the trade so much that it could hardly be said to exist at all.

"We find that at the period of the Union there were in Dublin twenty-five master manufacturers, having 1,320 looms, which gave employment to 10,000 operatives, being 1,091 persons.

"Another branch of the woolen trade was the flannel manufacture, the principal seat of which was in the county of Wicklow; and it flourished to such an extent as to induce the Earl of Fitzwilliam to erect, at a cost of £3,500, an extensive factory in the place in the town of Rathfriland, which he called Flannel Hall.

"In 1826, there were only 400 looms at work, and in 1827, 150 in 1828, and 100 in 1829. In this latter year (1829) the Flannel Hall was closed, and in 1830 only thirty looms were in operation, and in two years afterwards there was not a vestige of this formerly important and remunerative branch of industry.

"And they were wiped out as well as the rest. I may quote to you from Cork and its vicinity to show that there were forty-four operatives in the year 1800, engaging 57 looms, and allowing for operatives of various classes, the number of persons deriving wages was at least 2,500.

"In 1833 there were only two master manufacturers left who were employing 350 persons. The trade is now completely gone. The extensive factory of Mr. Lyons is converted into a bleaching green, as the result of this commercial union.

"Mr. Mills (Bothwell)—That is what Nova Scotia says.

"Mr. Curran—We shall see what this book says as to unrestricted reciprocity, and we may hope that Canada will guard against the same thing. (Cheers.) To go on to Limerick it says:—

"About forty years ago there were in Limerick more than 1,000 woolen weavers, who were in constant employment, and in the enjoyment of comfort and independence; but at present there are not seventy weavers in the city, and even those are scarcely able to provide a scanty subsistence.

"In regard to Bandon it says:—

"This town was famed for its manufacture of candles, cord and twine, and was originally the staple of the town and neighborhood, and flourished about fifty years ago. The manufacture of candles was almost entirely exported to London, and the most remunerative returns were always made, producing over £100,000 a year.

"The whole of the great industry, the finer work which gave employment to the skilled hands, had entirely disappeared at the time of these reports. In Kilkenny:—

"At the period of the union, there were not more than 25 master manufacturers, principally engaged in the manufacture of blankets, for which fabric Kilkenny gained an unrivalled character. These employed among them all 425 looms, and in the various processes of the woolen manufacture there could not have been less than 5,000 operatives employed.

"These were the industries which were to be more progressive and more prosperous under the political and

ly experienced the bounty of Parliament up to 1790 or 1792, in curtailing these manufactures. Even the fine descriptions of cloth were made there with a success."

He goes on to give the same tale of woe with regard to that industry as to all the others. He says:—

"However, immediately after the union, advantage was taken of a want of a domestic legislature, and influence was put to work in order to procure an order for obliging the military on the 1st of January 1801 to be clothed here, was not only evaded, but in a short time totally repealed, and supply of cloth was again sent from England.

"In Rosera, they were exactly in the same condition.

"About 1840 the manufacturers became scattered in the hands of a few master manufacturers; and one of them employed beyond 100 persons; about three or four hundred more were engaged by others. This was the case in Rosera, and soon after 1845 began to decline.

"And so it goes on. Mr. Crotty was examined before the Assistant Inquiry Commissioners in 1834, and he gave the following testimony:—

"Six years ago 1,000 persons, of whom 600 or 700 were females, were employed by me in Rosera or its immediate neighborhood. The females spun the worsted, and the men combed the wool; the latter earned £8 a day at combing and 1s. 6d. at spinning; the women could not make more than 12s a day; but even this small sum being well spent, they were the most part in their own clothing, had a marked effect upon their appearance in general; all are completely destitute and the husbands are wandering about seeking for work."

"That has been the effect of unrestricted reciprocity with a great market and a rich country, in so far as the woolen industries are concerned. The cotton manufacture in Dublin was exactly in the same condition. We find that the same results have happened with regard to cotton industry in Ireland from the effects of unrestricted reciprocity.

"There were fifty-five master manufacturers engaged in the cotton trade, chiefly in silk, shawl, muslin, flannels, etc., and several of them also combined the business of spinning.

"There were from forty to fifty mill manufacturers, keeping from five to ten looms going, as undertakers for the large manufacturers. The total number of looms kept in the cotton trade, as computed upon the most accurate account, to have been 8,000, and the number of operatives to whom they gave bread in the various processes was upwards of 20,000.

"In calico printing the same result took place, and I want to point out particularly to hon. gentlemen here what the direct result would be here with regard to certain manufactures. What happened with regard to calico printing? The calico printing was an important industry. They tell us:—

"This particular branch has been carried on to a great perfection, so much so that the Irish prints have even commanded a preference in the London market."

"And yet he says:—

"It is a humiliating reflection that the very choice prints must be represented as London prints to secure a sale with the better classes, may more. Within the last four or five years the printed calico has been extensively exported to the American market, and put up in boxes and labelled in imitation of French packages, and then sold as French goods."

"That was the effect of unrestricted reciprocity with a great and prosperous country that was overflowing with capital; the effect was that the Irish people actually had to put false labels on their goods; they could not get all of the little remnants that were left, they had to sell them almost under false pretences. In Bandon the same thing took place in regard to cotton prints. There were 2,800 cotton weavers engaged in the manufacture of the various branches. In Belfast the cotton trade is entirely wiped out. In 1799:—

"There were 200 calico looms at Ballybrigan at all work, making calico for printing. There were also from 400 to 500 looms in the counties of the adjoining parishes of Ardahan, Clombay and Carristown. There were several calico manufacturers in the town of Ballybrigan, and the number of operatives employed in Ballybrigan, and the average earnings for each do not exceed six shillings per week."

"That was the result at the time this book was published. They had been reduced down to that extremity, and now I am told they have disappeared. Let us see what took place in the silk manufacture, an industry that was carried to the highest perfection. The tale given here with regard to that industry is appalling, and ought to cause serious reflections to those hon. gentlemen who are advocating unrestricted reciprocity for Canada. By a report made at the time it appears that in 1775 the artisans of the various classes employed

"In some years afterwards the trade suffered a very considerable depression, which arose chiefly from the general rise of mullins and silks, and the consequent fall in the price of raw wool, which rendered the imports of raw wool very doubtful. At the time of the union, after various fluctuations, we find its condition to have been as follows:—

"There were 72 master manufacturers, engaged in various fabrics of broad silk, tabbies, velvets, silk waistcoats, and neckerchiefs, crapes, perukes, and various articles, and the materials to the weavers, who were in their own residences, the manufacturing operations, family and domestic, and the imports of raw wool were not less than 2,500 broad looms, in the ribbon line there were from 300 to 400 looms, and there were at least 1,500 persons employed in the broad silk line, at least 5,000 in the narrow silk line, and the Irish Revenue Commissioners state the number of looms in 1787 at 1,500, and the number employed at that time, 10,000. In 1814, by an accurate account taken, the number of looms were found to have fallen to 227. In 1828, by the report on hand loom weavers, there were stated at 400, and on broad silk 200, and on ribbons. At the present day the whole number of broad looms in the silk trade is about 100, and the number of persons employed in the silk trade is not more than 1,000. The value of the silk trade in 1775 was £1,000,000, and in 1828 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 1828 was only £100,000, and in 1850 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 1850 was only £100,000, and in 1875 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 1875 was only £100,000, and in 1890 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 1890 was only £100,000, and in 1910 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 1910 was only £100,000, and in 1930 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 1930 was only £100,000, and in 1950 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 1950 was only £100,000, and in 1975 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 1975 was only £100,000, and in 1990 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 1990 was only £100,000, and in 2010 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 2010 was only £100,000, and in 2030 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 2030 was only £100,000, and in 2050 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 2050 was only £100,000, and in 2075 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 2075 was only £100,000, and in 2090 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 2090 was only £100,000, and in 2110 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 2110 was only £100,000, and in 2130 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 2130 was only £100,000, and in 2150 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 2150 was only £100,000, and in 2175 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 2175 was only £100,000, and in 2190 it was only £100,000. The value of the silk trade in 2190 was only £100,000, and in 2210 it was only £100,000. 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