

friend, towards Nova Scotia, I still maintain that the Government have been most unfortunate in the system that they have adopted to aid the industries of Ontario. Now, the most important thing for us in Nova Scotia is our manufactures. The hon. gentleman, in speaking as I have already said, used such language as would warrant the House in believing that the iron and coal industries were not such industries as should be practically protected in Nova Scotia. I would like that hon. gentleman, from his knowledge of our province, of its resources and of the different industries in which our people can engage, to tell me to what other industries they could direct attention, if it is not towards the development of our iron and mining interests. Nova Scotia does not possess those advantages of climate and of soil which would make her a great agricultural province. We are so situated that we do not at this moment produce our own food in the lower provinces. Perhaps one of the best customers that Ontario and Manitoba have for their products, one of their best markets, is to be found in those very same lower provinces. We are so situated that we have a great diversity of interests, and among others those that have always seemed to us to afford such employment as would keep the people at home and prevent them from leaving their native country, and retain them at home to become good citizens and producing citizens for the Dominion, was a development of the manufacturing interests. Therefore, I maintain, that all that portion of the hon. gentleman's remarks which seemed to imply that industrial or manufacturing development was not native or not fitted to the lower provinces, was made in entire misapprehension of the facts, and this he will recognize himself as soon as his attention is called to it. I therefore am glad to take this opportunity as a Nova Scotian and as a representative of that country in which these interests are found, to protest as strongly as I can against the fact that the Government in this matter, while doing something for them, has not done what those interests require, and their policy on the whole has not been favourable to those industries in the lower provinces. I regret to have to say that having just returned from those provinces, I have been informed that the masters who preside over these large works have been compelled, in view of this policy adopted by the Government, to announce to all their employees that if they do not choose to submit to a reduction of 10 per cent in all wages and salaries paid, it would be necessary to close up these great works, works that pay out nearly \$300,000 yearly in wages, distributing a large amount of money which goes into circulation, and which amount of money is absolutely essential in order to keep the wheels of trade revolving in our province.

Mr. BELL (Pictou).

That large amount of money is to be diminished by 10 per cent reduction in the salaries of these men, and if they are not willing to submit to that reduction, it will be necessary to close these works because they can not be continued at a profit. For the last year they have been struggling along, and they have not been able to make a profit. Now, the hon. gentleman may say: Well, if they have not been able to make money, that is sufficient proof that they should not be there. If he were to say so, it would be an excellent exemplification of the fact that a half truth or a truth half understood, is one of the most dangerous things in the world. At this very moment, after having being in operation fourteen or fifteen years, the stress of competition has been so great in the world, the iron manufacturer having been subjected to the practical competition of the whole world, that prices have been reduced 14, 15 or 16 dollars a ton below the rate which they formerly received. They have been obliged to improve their processes, to cheapen their processes, and to economize sufficiently to do this, and on account of the cutting down of cost and by becoming masters of their own business, they are now able to live at prices nearly 40 per cent less than those they were getting when they first went into the business. Now, they have been able to do that because the system of bounties given to them by the Government, held them upon their feet long enough to enable them to meet their rivals, and while fighting the battle of competition, to make such profit as would enable them to throw out expensive machinery they had put in, and replace it with other machinery. A large part of the plant of one of these great industrial establishments, has to be renewed every few years. The world moves so fast, processes are so rapidly changing and improving, that they need to have the most modern appliances, and unless they keep up with all new improvements they are inevitably compelled to fall behind in the race. Now, at a time when, on account of the industrial condition in the United States, and on account of a certain amount of depression in various parts of that country, permitting people to sell at almost any price, at a time when, I maintain, competition in these lines is greater and more severe than ever before, this is the last time in the world for the Government of Canada, which has during the last fourteen years assisted to build up these industries, to withdraw any part of the support that they have given. That they should do so is a most unfortunate thing. I tell you that these men upon whom depends these industries, who are at the head of them, are struggling along now in the hope that better ideas will come to the Government of Canada, and that a reconsideration of the circumstances will induce them at the first opportunity, when they again