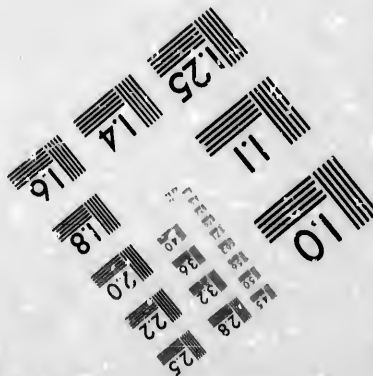
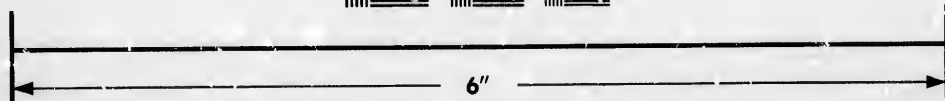
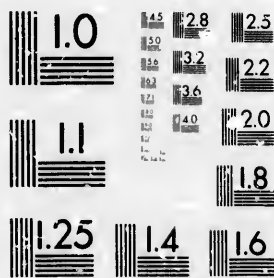


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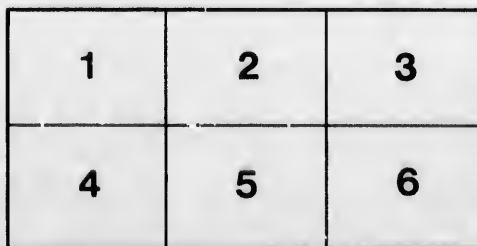
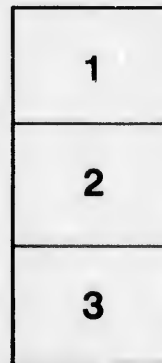
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Written by A. Skaife Esq.

THE
COMEDY OF TRADE;

OR,
EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF:

AS RECENTLY PERFORMED AT

OTTAWA,

BY A DISTINGUISHED COMPANY OF AMATEUR LEGISLATORS.

By a Spiritual Medium.

MONTREAL:
DAWSON BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS.

1876.

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THE Editor of the following pages thinks it proper to say, that a different account of these proceedings has already appeared — but as that account conveys a very poor idea of the performance — the *spirit* having been altogether sacrificed for the *letter* — he deems it due to the public, and to the performers themselves, that a better version should be published.

An "Ideal" Reporter has, therefore, been employed to reconstruct the piece — with a true poetic insight, if not with literal accuracy — from his "inner consciousness."

The Editor has also added several entirely new parts, which seemed necessary to the perfection, or dramatic unity of the whole.

MONTREAL, 4th March, 1876.

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THE
GREAT TARIFF DEBATE
IN THE
DOMINION TRADE CONGRESS,
OTTAWA, 1876.

The members of this high deliberative body, representing the business intellect of the Dominion, and whose functions are somewhat analogous to those of the "Grand Jury," assembled in their usual place of meeting, shortly before the opening of Parliament.

The various great trade questions of the day were to be discussed and settled, to facilitate and abridge the labours of the Legislature.

The President, Mr. BEAUXTEMPS, took his seat, and said :
Bring on the TARIFF !

MR. BLUE rose and begged to move the following resolution :—

That the depressed state of the manufacturing interests of this Dominion, calls imperatively for such legislation as will enrich those now engaged in manufacturing, encourage further investment of the kind, and afford employment to our operatives.

That this depression is mainly due to unfair competition from the United States, whose manufacturers persist in selling here their productions at less than cost.

That, therefore, our Government should adopt a thoroughly national policy, by excluding, as far as possible, the manufactures of the United States: and that the products of the soil, the forest, and the mine, be specially considered in this connexion.

MR. BLUE spoke as follows in support of his motion :

Mr. President and Gentlemen :—You will observe that this resolution goes squarely for a "national" policy, which is summed up in the single word "Protection." Yes, gentlemen, we do not shirk the conclusion, that those who approve of our

resolution are protectionists, that is, they believe in protecting themselves from the mean encroachments of foreign competitors, and in having their own country and countrymen to themselves. Protectionists are a much-abused class. The malignant spite of the little philosophers who style themselves political economists, or free-traders, has done its worst to trade us, but we survive it all, and exist to-day, in every country, a compact and invulnerable phalanx! It is said of us, for instance, that we want to protect everything under the sun, when just the reverse is true, for the true protectionist demands protection only on what he makes himself, and does not care to see the principle too extended. But protectionists, like others, must give and take—taking as much as possible and giving as little as possible—so they unite for the common weal. Individually they cannot make headway against the gross ignorance of society or of parliamentary bodies. A brutal outcry would be raised were one individual, or one branch of industry, to demand the exclusion from the country of foreign goods competing with theirs, because they were sold too cheap; but when a great number of widely different interests, spread over the whole country, unite in asking for the same thing, and do it in the name of their destitute work-people, the effect is very different. The demand savours less of monopoly, and it can easily be made to appear that the welfare of the whole Dominion is identified with that of her manufacturers. (Cheers.)

It will be seen that our resolution flows naturally from these principles. The one is the complement of the other.

Few will dispute our first proposition, viz: that our manufactures are utterly depressed. If we cannot point to many failures, dividends are few and infinitesimal; and it is no answer to our complaints to say that other lines of business are in a similar condition. This may, and does afford, a moral satisfaction; but pecuniary satisfaction is what we want. Besides, let other lines look after themselves.

The evil admitted, it will just as little be disputed that we owe it to the "slaughtering" of United States goods in our markets. This "slaughtering"—(I love that word; it finely fills the mouth, but I detest the thing)—I say, this "slaughtering" is not to be mistaken for sacrificing. It is something quite different, for our rivals in the States, by having the privilege of selling some of their productions here below cost, can afford to keep their factories and mills at work, and get better prices for what they sell at home. It may puzzle some to comprehend how manufacturers can find it advantageous to do this, unless compelled by a temporary glut or crisis, as men sometimes tide over a difficulty by borrowing money at ruinous rates of

interest; but to these I would simply say: if you lack understanding, I am not bound to supply you with it. The philosophy of the thing should be obvious to the meanest intellect, always excepting the free-trade intellect, which is impervious to reason—of this description.

But we need not stop to discuss the why and the wherefore, for there is the *fact*. It stares us in the face. Our unhappy country is flooded with these cheap productions, which our importers persist in bringing, and our shopkeepers in disseminating, without the least regard for the true interests of our people. They would seem indeed to be in league with the American manufacturer to effect the ruin of our native industries, and to tempt our lower classes from their allegiance, by debauching them with a pedlar-like display of cheap and nasty wares. (Cheers.) And our sapient legislators connive at this state of things by keeping the tariff low enough to make it possible. It is time for these to wake up, and by prompt action, avert the impending ruin.

Let them at once prohibit the importation of these goods, by adopting the policy of our resolution. It should be the only policy with any government, worthy of the name; and I would gladly see it applied to England as well as to the United States—not reciprocal duties, of course, in her case, but high prohibitory duties. (Hear! hear!)

I am a thorough Briton, and I yield to no man in devoted loyalty to the British Crown—when it costs nothing—but loyalty to that crown is one thing, and loyalty to our own pockets another! (Hear! Hear!) If it be asked why we cannot now compete with English cottons and woollens, since we are nearer the raw material, we can get the same machinery and the same skilled workmen; we have abundant water power to save fuel, and the natural protection afforded by distance, with its concomitants of freight, insurance, &c., and the profits of the importer here, to say nothing of the considerable tariff protection we already possess, I answer at once: that I don't know! (Hear! Hear!) without it be that manufacturers in new countries naturally expect to grow rich faster than their *confrères* in old ones. We can scarcely be expected to content ourselves with the slow process of accretion by which the great houses of effete monarchies have attained their present dimensions. We should do the same thing in half a generation! We have, moreover, to pay higher wages, and our market is too limited. Now I do not object to high wages, for, paradoxical as it may seem, *high wages means cheap labour*. When a man is paid well he works well, so that, in truth, the more you pay a man the cheaper he becomes to you. In dull times, therefore, when

labour is abundant, (they generally go together) instead of reducing wages, as is usually done, we should raise them. And herein, perhaps, might be found an antidote for our troubles, all in our own hands, and I make you a present of the idea. But in the meantime, we may as well keep it to ourselves, and resort to it only, if we cannot induce Government to shut out impertinent competition. If we succeed in this we may still make good profits, in spite of *low wages*. Our manufactures will flourish, and that will attract immigrants, and these in turn will need our cottons and woollens, and so we go on in a ceaseless round of ever increasing prosperity. (Cheers.)

Another effect of our national policy will be to extend our markets; for our neighbors, when they find that Canada is no longer to be their slaughter-house, will promptly cry *peccavi*, and allow us to slaughter there. Why should all the slaughtering, with its rich train of advantages, be on one side only? Let us hasten the time when our turn may come to send our cottons and our woollens—our stoves and our saddlery hardware, to the United States, and offer to sell them at almost any price.

And I tell you, gentlemen, we shall soon reach this condition of prosperity if our statesmen will but scatter to the winds the vagaries of free-traders, and inaugurate the grand national policy prefigured in our resolution. (Enthusiastic cheers.)

Mr. AARON rose to second the resolution, and said :

I differ, Mr. President, from my friend Mr. Blue in some respects, but we have the same end in view, the promotion of our own interests, or in other words, of the interests of our native land.

In *theory*, I am a free-trader, but in practice I am a protectionist, for I could not for a moment allow my principles to interfere with my business interests. The difference, however, is only one of *time*, and the time has not yet come for free-trade in this country, nor will it do so until our manufacturers have all grown rich.

When we shall have been protected long enough, we may indulge in the luxury of free-trade. This was the course of events in England. After some centuries of a most restrictive commercial policy, her manufactures had attained such gigantic strength, that they could defy competition; and then, but not till then, did her wise rulers go in for freedom of trade. She had become the richest nation in the world, and had surplus millions to invest.

Our astute neighbours are fast following in England's footsteps, but as they started later, they have not yet reached the

free-trade epoch. Soon, however, by their deep policy of "slaughtering" in unprotected markets, the United States will reach the maximum of wealth, when they, too, may safely reduce to practice the theories of economists. If we adopt the same policy, we may expect the same result, and so on with every nation in the world.

It may suit our adversaries to say that the removal of trade restrictions in England was a very gradual process, the effect of the growth of enlightenment rather than the growth of wealth, and of many a hard-fought battle in Parliament and in the press between those calumniously called monopolists, and the leaders of liberal opinion; but I need not answer assertions so palpably absurd as these. Look for a moment at France. Cobden and Bright inoculated the Emperor with their radical notions, and persuaded him to try "free-trade" for seven years. What was the consequence? And let it be a solemn warning. Before the seven years had fled, that silly Emperor was driven into exile, and I will add, at the risk of committing an anachronism, Cobden was called away to where free-traders cease from troubling, and manufacturers are at rest! (Groans for Cobden.) But, happily for France, Mr. Thiers arose, swept away the wretched delusion, and returned to the old policy of protection, with the result we behold to-day—a rehabilitated country, contentment and smiling prosperity everywhere, and some hundreds of millions of that terrible war debt paid off in two or three years. (Cheers.) Such has been the effect of a very few years of protection in France, gentlemen, and a similar result might be expected here.

It is a common allegation with free-traders that protection makes higher prices. But this is not correct, for the effect of that policy is simply to prevent prices going *lower* than they should be. This is susceptible of instant demonstration. Will anyone, for example, dare to maintain that his tweed pants cost more because of our 20 per cent. tariff, unless he be one of those besotted creatures, who still wear the Scotch or English article? And should we now succeed in our effort to get more protection, will that make the least difference to the consumer? Certainly not. He and the wool grower will reap all the advantage, in fact, it is mainly in their interest we speak. (Great applause.)

Mr. DRUGS was suffering from a severe cold in the head, but would venture to make a few remarks through his nose in favour of the resolution. He said:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen—I have just jotted down, without a moment's reflection, a few propositions which, with

your permission, I will read. They are in the form of a syllogism.

First. We must encourage immigration; but (second) immigrants won't come, or won't stay, unless they find work; we must, therefore, (third) encourage our manufactures.

Now, I flatter myself, the most specious advocate of free-trade cannot successfully dispute these propositions, and they have this admirable quality: they will work any way you like to put them. You may turn them upside down without in the least disturbing their logical security. The result always comes out the same. If we want immigrants, we must sustain our manufactures; if manufactures, we must attract immigrants. In this last magic word, gentlemen, will be found a panacea for the evils that are upon us; for with a large population, there will come a large internal demand for our manufactures, and the more numerous we are, the easier it will be to pay our taxes; provided these do not increase in greater proportion, which is, I must admit, the rule in older countries, but should not be so in this. (Hear, hear.)

Moreover, without a large population, we can never attain the rank of a great nation, that is to say, we cannot have a very numerous class of wealthy men. Now, the individuals composing small states, may be happy and virtuous, and all that sort of thing, but these are not elements of greatness; and to form a *great* state should be the ambition of every patriot statesman. The virtue, &c., may follow. For what is greatness but wealth, and does not wealth create happiness? Half-crazy philosophers may pretend to deny this, but the man of the world knows better, and shows by his actions that he considers wealth and happiness convertible terms. Legislation should therefore aim at the production of wealth, and it matters nothing to our "greatness" that the wealth should accumulate in the hands of the few rather than with the many.

If, in all civilized communities, we observe a tendency for the rich to grow richer, and the poor poorer, we must ascribe it to some wise dispensation of Providence, which we should not blasphemously try to thwart. As the sacred writer hath it:

"Order is Heaven's first law, and this confessed,
Some are, and must be, greater than the rest."

But the difference is not so great as it appears; for if the lower classes have not the *enjoyments*, they escape the *cares* of wealth, and they have other compensations in knowing that they have contributed their mite towards the magnificence of the rich,

and in the glorious feeling that they belong to a great nation. (Loud cheers.)

Let our government, gentlemen, adopt the policy we urge upon them, and the effect will soon be apparent in our national growth; and before many generations have passed away, we shall have accumulated so much money, and such a teeming population—millionaires on the one hand, paupers on the other—that we may afford to follow the example of England, and export our *poor* as well as our manufactures! (Prolonged applause.)

Mr. ASSURANCE next addressed the meeting as follows :—

Mr. President and Gentlemen.—We are all, of course, agreed that our common country should be made as prosperous as possible, but we differ a little as to the manner, and as to what constitutes “prosperity.” Now the gentlemen who have spoken, and those for whom they speak, appear to me to identify themselves entirely too much with their country. They evidently think that if *they* are prosperous, the whole country must or should be so; that, therefore, the simplest way to diffuse universal well-being is to get rich themselves; and finally that the shortest way to get rich themselves is to coax or bully Government into granting them certain monopolies.

The last part of the proposition I shall not dispute. It is undoubtedly a short way to get rich, to dip freely into the public purse. But I stoutly deny that our manufactures and our country are synonymous terms,—that the former are in such a desperate state as to call “imperatively,” or in any other way, for Government help, or that such help would be proper and salutary under any circumstances.

For proof, I appeal to the fact that new manufacturing enterprises are started here every day, and very often, too, by capitalists from the United States! And which of us has not been pestered to take stock in them, by their projectors, who could assure us, and plainly demonstrate by figures, that profits would be large and certain! I wonder if any of these gentlemen are here to-day, asking for more protection. (No!)

Finally, the depression, such as it is, is caused by the universal straggle to get rich *fast*, and is not a matter for legislation at all. (Ominous silence.)

We have already far too many “business men,” and their numbers are being constantly swelled by aspirants from the ranks below. It is impossible that all can do well, in a legitimate way, so speculation, on credit, becomes rampant. The bulk of transactions “on change” are simply gambling, and

add as much to the general wealth and well-being as so many bets on a race-course.

Demoralization is the inevitable result of this Plutus worship; and "*Over-reach thy neighbour*" might be adopted for their motto by the business men of our day. In short, gentlemen, manufacturers, like others, are now feeling the effects of a state of things they have largely helped to produce; and I say, it is good for them! (Hisses and groans.)

Mr. DIFFIDENT now addressed the Board, saying:—I am a good deal oppressed with modesty, Mr. President, but I will venture to say that I believe manufacturers to be better off than any other similar class. On every side you witness their "riotous living," and admire their palatial homes; and now they modestly ask that every poor man in the land should be forced to pay something to swell their money bags!

The immigration and protection see-saw of Mr. Drugs reminds one of the Irishman, who, by adding now whiskey and now water to his toddy, managed to get a very big drink indeed, before he got it precisely to his taste. So, we must have immigrants for our manufactures, and then manufactures for our immigrants. In the meantime, our friend slakes his thirst, and, after a while, retires complacently with a considerable swelling about the region of the pocket. The immigrants we need, are those who will cultivate our wild lands; of other kinds, we have more than enough already. And it is certainly a peculiar way to promote immigration, to increase the cost of living to the poor!

Gentlemen, talk of the prosperity of the United States! Why, it is notorious that their manufacturing interests are in a worse condition than our own. Mills and workshops closed in every direction and few of the others paying dividends. Over-protection has bred over-production there, as it will everywhere; and it needs no great hardihood to predict that the semi-barbarous commercial policy of the United States will soon be replaced by one more in consonance with the spirit of the age and of common sense. (Hear.)

Mr. BOBSON: I rise, Mr. President and gentlemen, to submit a few facts and figures bearing on this question, which, I venture to think, will astonish Mr. Blue and gentlemen who have made so much capital out of that bug-bear—the "slaughtering" of United States goods in this country. I say, my figures will *astonish* these gentlemen; for I should be reluctant to think that they already know how little foundation there is, in fact, for the outcry they have raised.

I will now quote from the Customs' Blue Book for 1874, where we find that while the total importations of woollens in that year amounted to over \$11,000,000, only \$186,000 worth came from the United States! Surely here is a case of "much cry and little wool!"

Again, to take the boot and shoe interest, we find that importations from the States in 1874 amounted to only \$146,000. Surely this is not the shoe that pinches! But I need not read the whole Blue Book to you. I refer you to it for more information of this spicy kind.

Over-importation there certainly has been, but it is rather from Europe than the United States. And there has also been over-production. Our manufacturing capacities already, in certain lines, exceed the demand. To merchants and manufacturers, I would say: "Import less, make less, and spend less; and you will all be better off next year." (Dead silence.)

Mr. SAVANT, continuing the debate, said:—I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution, although it scarcely gives sufficient prominence to the great iron interest I am here to represent,—an interest, gentlemen, hitherto too much neglected by our rulers. Yet, if we could only get a *start*, we might lead the world in that industry; for we have the richest iron deposits in the world, and we have coal and charcoal too.

How did our great mother, England, reach her proud position of mistress of the world in iron manufactures?

Not, as quibblers might allege, because she was so pre-eminently favored by nature with vast deposits of coal and iron, almost in the same spot, and thus saving immensely in transportation,—but simply because her able legislators prohibited for a couple of centuries or so, the importation of foreign iron. I need not quote all their wise regulations in this regard, but at one time, about a hundred years ago, they forbade, under dreadful penalties, the *exportation* of steam engines and all machinery used in iron manufacturing. This was rather hard perhaps on the makers of such machinery, but in this way did England build up her iron trade, and so should we build ours. (Loud cheers.)

We may not, indeed, hope to rival that country in so short a time as two centuries—for we have vastly different competitors,—but in three or four, we may fairly hope to surpass her; a reflection which must cause great satisfaction to the present generation.

In 1825, the price of iron in England was only £10, while on the Continent it ranged from 15 to 25 guineas; but she

still thought it prudent to keep out the foreign article by high duties. Soon after, however, her statesmen thought these might safely be reduced. The enthusiasts, called political economists, pretended, indeed, that the whole system was absurd, when it was not mischievous,—a wretched concession to the clamour of monopolists,—but practical men knew better, and to practical men only do I address myself. (Hear! Hear!)

To return to our own country, I will show you one of the effects of living under a pusillanimous government. We have iron ore in abundance, as I have said; well, our neighbours come here, buy our ore, ship it to the States, pay heavy freight,—for the freight is, of course, enormous, in proportion to value on such material,—pay their own import duty of \$4 a ton, smelt the ore, send it back to us as iron, pay return freight and our import duty of 20 per cent., and take our “hard cash” out of the country! Now, is not this a startling state of things?

Voice: Very! and says mighty little for the enterprise of our capitalists!

Mr. SAVANT: Want of enterprise is not the cause, but want of proper legislation. When our Government shakes off its supineness; shuts out improper competition and guarantees large returns to investors, we may do this business for ourselves and keep our “hard cash” at home! (Cheers.)

It may be said, if we have cash to pay we get full value for it; but such cavillers clearly understand nothing of the “balance of trade.” Why, our imports last year were 33 per cent. more than our exports!

Voice: Because importers went mad; they will soon get tired of that!

Mr. SAVANT: Mad or not, the fact remains, and it becomes the imperative duty of Government to intervene.

Voice: Let them erect more lunatic asylums!

Mr. SAVANT continuing: Mr. Bobson has made the wonderful discovery that we can already manufacture as much as we can consume. Well, Gentlemen, does not England manufacture more than she consumes? Does not the United States, as we see by her “slaughtering”? And so, indeed, should every country—putting away the surplus for a rainy day, if she cannot find a market for it. (Loud cheers.)

As nobody wants to protect grain, I would like to see "products of the soil" dropped from our resolution.

Mr. BLUE: signified his willingness to meet Mr. SAVANT in this matter.

A gentleman whom we had not before noticed at the Board, begged to correct Mr. SAVANT when he said: nobody wants to protect grain. Nobody at that Board, perhaps, because by far the greatest interest of the country was not represented there; but farmers certainly wanted such protection. Canada is now a slaughter-market for a great deal of American wheat, which our millers are not slow to buy and grind, to the manifest injury of their own country. Mr. Savant had ably shown that we should copy the old policy of England with regard to iron; he thought we should also follow her example in respect to grain, and absolutely prohibit importation.

The CHAIRMAN said: he would like to know the name of the person who could gravely utter sentiments so extraordinary, and from what local Board he was accredited; but the gentleman had already disappeared. It was inferred that he was a mere interloper. We afterwards learned that the unfortunate man's name was "Granger," and that he was a little demented.

Mr. W. W. OGLE said: It is scarcely necessary, perhaps, to answer the intruder who has just addressed the Board; but it is sufficient to say that we are not here to consider the interests of agriculturists, but those of business men. Now, I am a thorough protectionist, for I am a manufacturer. I manufacture flour, and it is therefore only just that flour should be protected; but when it comes to protecting wheat—*my raw material*,—that is just going a little too far. If I find it to my advantage to buy wheat in the States, why should I be prevented, I should like to know! (Hear! Hear!)

Mr. HOWL said: The question before us, Mr. Chairman, is not so much a fiscal as a social or national one, and our first consideration should be to cement more closely together the elements of our confederation.

To effect this, we have but to make use of our Intercolonial Railway,—an elephant with which we should not, otherwise, know what to do.

To bring about so desirable a consummation, we should

all be willing to sacrifice something—to pay something—and I am sure we are.

Which of us, for instance, would not sell his goods cheaper to a compatriot than to a citizen of the United States, or pay a little more for what he wished to buy? I think, therefore, if our Legislature forced Ontario to buy her coal in Nova Scotia, by imposing a duty of two or three dollars a ton on the Pennsylvanian article, and obliged Nova Scotia to buy her produce, &c., in Ontario, it would be a great advantage to both, and neither would have reason to complain. Ontario would, no doubt, pay a million or two a year more for her coal than she now pays, but Nova Scotia would have to pay out as much extra for her produce, &c., and thus balance the account. There are practical difficulties in the way, of course, but determination on the part of Government, and patience on the part of the people, would certainly overcome them.

For instance, Ontario might want more coal than Nova Scotia wants of produce; or, again, as all classes in the latter are not interested in coal, so are there many classes in Ontario not interested in manufactures or produce, and these differences might produce discord—for a time,—but after a while we would learn to run smoothly in the groove prescribed for us, and support our burthens without feeling them. (Cheers.)

“Canada for Canadians” is my motto! The more we live within ourselves, and the less we have to do with the outside world in the way of trade, the better for us all, and the sooner we will return to a state of primitive innocence and beatitude—when the millennium would be no object! (Great enthusiasm.)

Mr. D. BELL said:—

I shall vote, Mr. President, against the resolution. The arguments of gentlemen in favor of it are no arguments at all, and do not support their own conclusions. They seemed to believe that our government, by simple *fiat*, could cause all our troubles to vanish, and place us at once on a footing with nations ten times as populous, twenty times as rich, and a hundred times better off in the matter of climate.

Our troubles are due to the circumstance that we want to go too fast, and the sooner our manufacturers “moderate their transports,” the better.

They are all the time hankering after the markets of the United States, as if that would help them much. If they cannot compete with United States goods here, with all the protection they already possess, how can they do so there?

I think the simplest way for government to meet the clamour, would be to grant bounties at once, or to pension off every manufacturer!

Mr. SAMUEL SLICK.—Though not a regularly accredited member, was allowed a hearing in behalf of Nova Scotian coal owners, and spoke as follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen—I need not tell you that our coal mining interests are in a horrible condition, nor that I think it the duty of government, or in other words, the Dominion as a whole, to contribute to their relief.

It is surely a shocking state of things that we cannot turn to profitable account, the wealth of coal with which nature has so bountifully supplied us. Is it because there is too much coal in the world? or that the nations who want it most find it in plenty in their own soil? Whatever the reason, we certainly cannot find a market for ours, so long as Pennsylvania is permitted to sell hers in Ontario, for the misfortune of the article is, its *bulk*. The cost of transportation is so great that people at a distance won't buy our coal, and as we can't burn it all ourselves, even if we did nothing else, we shall be obliged to shut up, unless government do something for us—"dam quick," as the negro said. (Hear, hear.)

Now, the reverent observer of nature (in Nova Scotia) detects the finger of Providence in the circumstance, that Ontario and Quebec have not been blessed with coal, and when confederation was consummated, He must have designed that these provinces should get their supplies from us; for political boundaries and considerations must always take precedence of mere geographical ones. But I fear public sentiment is not ripe (in Ontario at any rate) for legislation in conformity with this design. There is too much ignorance and prejudice for our rulers safely to prohibit all importations of foreign coal.

I would recommend, therefore, as an alternative, that a *bounty* be granted to Nova Scotian coal proprietors on all the coal they export. At present we are debarred from sending our coal to the Eastern States by an import duty imposed by the United States Government, at the instigation of the bloated coal monopolists of Pennsylvania. If our government will but pay this duty for us, or perhaps a little more, in the form of a bounty, the tax would fall very lightly on the whole people, while it would infuse new life into our business. We could then undersell Pennsylvania in their own markets, and leave a snug thing for ourselves. (Cheers.)

Mr. BLUE thought Mr. Slick's suggestion so reasonable as to commend itself at once to the good sense of members, and he would, therefore, embody it in his resolution.

Mr. DOODLE—Though not a member of the Board, asked to be allowed to say a few words in support of what had fallen from Mr. Slick. He resided, he said, in the United States, but had a pecuniary interest in the welfare of our great Dominion, for he, in conjunction with a few speculative friends, had bought one of the largest coal mines in Nova Scotia, in anticipation that the Canadian Government would do something to check-mate Pennsylvania, and place Nova Scotia in a position to supply the Eastern States with coal. He trusted this natural and proper expectation would not prove unfounded, as otherwise their speculation must be utterly disastrous.

He need hardly add that he spoke as much in the interest of the Dominion as in his own, for previous speakers had clearly shown that one went with the other.

Mr. TALKER—Familiarly known as the "Major," now addressed the Board as follows:—

Mr. President—The "grand national policy" to which we are invited to give our adhesion, seems to me to be a very small potatoe indeed, and the resolution is entirely too hi-falutin. It amounts simply to copying the absurd commercial policy of the United States not because of its intrinsic merits, but avowedly as a discrimination against that country. It resembles a contemptible *mimicry* more than anything else. Why not apply the brilliant idea to other countries as well, on the principle that what others do to us, whether particularly meant for us or not, we should do to them, whether particularly good for us or not? This would spare us the mental anguish of working out a tariff for ourselves.

Of course, gentlemen who favor this resolution, assume that the United States will not retaliate our "retaliation," as it is called, but how would they look if they discovered some fine morning that that country had imposed prohibitory duties on our barley, lumber, wool and cattle? Perhaps they might argue, with their elastic logic, that it would be better for us if these products were kept at home. They would certainly be cheaper; and the cheapness of barley and wool would encourage the manufacture of beer and woollen goods,—those who wanted to build houses, would get cheaper lumber, while every living soul in the Dominion, except babes at the breast, would profit by the cheapness of beef!

The resolution as it stood originally, was so comprehensive,

that it might at once have said: "everything under the earth, on the earth, and above the earth, with the combinations thereof," but some gentlemen have objected to the company of "products of the soil," so these have been "left out in the cold;" though with what consistency I fail to comprehend. Perhaps the distinction they meant to draw was between things found in a natural state, the direct gift of God, and the product of mere human labour when expended only on the *surface* of the earth! The whole argument is too absurd. None of these things should be "protected," but, certainly, "products of the soil" could show a better claim for such protection than those of the "forest and the mine."

MR. BLACK, JUNR. now rose, and expectation was on tip-toe, members expecting a treat from the known eloquence and versatility of this gentleman. He said:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—The necessity for protecting our country, and our more simple countrymen, against the invasion of cheap goods from the States, is quite apparent to the initiated, and it arises from the circumstance that that country has now returned to her normal condition of great prosperity. During and for some time after the great war, manufactured goods were cheaper here than there, and her citizens consequently flocked here for pleasure travel, or for business, and made a nice thing by smuggling our goods back with them into their own country. The coming and going of these pilgrims, brought a double blessing, for they left money for their expenses, and they left more for the smuggled goods. Alas! this happy state of things has passed away, never, I fear, to return. (Audible sighs from the majority.) The tables are turned. Things are cheaper there than with us, and out of the very abundance of their prosperity, they can afford to sell their manufactures here at less than cost, which we could never do!

(Voice: they will soon tire of that!)

I wish I could think so, but no doubt they find a profit in this slaughtering, because of the enormous extent of their business. If such a state of things as this be allowed to endure, our infant manufactures will soon be crushed to death, and Government will be clearly responsible for the catastrophe. They may not indeed, by increasing taxation, make our products cheaper, but they can easily make those of the United States dearer, which amounts to the same thing. (Hear! Hear!)

Gentlemen on the other side, indeed, pretend that this will make our own goods dearer likewise, but nothing can be

more absurd. Our manufacturers simply say: "Give us this country to ourselves, and we will deal fairly by you. You may be sure we will never charge more than we can get." Can anything be more reasonable? But even were it true that farmers would have, under this system, to pay dearer for manufactured goods, they would find ample compensation in the increased value of their products. We observe, I admit, a disposition among agriculturists of densely peopled countries, to migrate to pastures new, where land is cheap; but this cannot be owing to a desire to be better off, for previous speakers have demonstrated that the more populous a country is, the better for every body in it.

It is very desirable, that our farmers and lower classes generally; should apprehend that their interests are identified with those of the great class of *go betweens* this Board represents. If they will but allow us to establish a rich middle class, by catering for them in our own way, they must eventually profit by the overflow. I would, therefore, deprecate any attempt on the part of the farmer to get protection on his grain. There is no necessity for it. It would be a bread tax too, and raise the price of bread to the poor. I have already shewn that such taxes have *not* the same effect with manufactures. I need not stop to explain the reason of this difference; a little reflection will make it clear; besides, the majority of this Board need no convincing on this point. I am glad, therefore, that "products of the soil" have been taken out of the resolution.

Manufactures, rather than agriculture, is what we need. Now, as I have just said, former speakers conclusively established that increase of population and increase of prosperity were identical terms. Well, gentlemen, I find by a close scrutiny of the United States census statistics, that the greatest increase of population there has taken place, not in exclusively agricultural districts, *but in busy manufacturing centres!* (Loud applause.)

I must now protest, sir, against the language of Mr. Talker, when he urges this Board to hesitate before we adopt our grand, national; protective and retaliatory policy, lest, forsooth! our neighbours may retaliate too! Such language is an insult to this Board, and should rally us to a man around our glorious ensign of "Protection to our capitalists!" (Cheers.) What! shall we be asked to modify a policy founded on what the United States has done, by any considerations of what she may do in return? I scorn the recommendation, although I do not doubt that the United States *will* retaliate, for they have always adopted a policy of coercion towards this country. There can be no doubt of this, for a prominent citizen of theirs

divulged the secret one day after dinner, at Detroit!! But shall such a policy succeed? They must learn that Britons are never, never, never to be bullied or cajoled! (Tremendous applause, members repeating "never, never, never," to the tune of "Rule Britannia.")

One word more, gentlemen, in conclusion. Anticipating a question a certain honorable gentleman is probably about to ask, I will tell him that we are not here to discuss mere details, but to lay down great fundamental principles for the guidance and instruction of our statesmen! (Great cheering.)

The Honorable Mr. OLD followed, and said:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—Believing, as I do, in Adam Smith and his disciples, McCulloch, Peel, Mill, Cobden, Bright, Gladstone, and Young, I cannot vote for the resolution before us.

Exactly one hundred years ago, the illustrious founder of the science of Political Economy wrote as follows about arbitrary restrictions on trade:

"The mean rapacity of merchants and manufacturers would thus erect into political maxims, for the conduct of a great nation, the sneaking arts of underling tradesmen; but they who teach these doctrines are by no means such fools as they believe them. In every country it is, and always must be, the interest of the great body of the people to buy whatever they want of those who sell it cheapest. The proposition is so manifest, that it could never have been called in question, had not the interested sophistry of merchants and manufacturers confounded the common sense of mankind. *Their* interest it is to secure the monopoly of the home market, and is therefore directly opposed to that of the great body of the people."

The principles here laid down, gentlemen, are as immutable as truth itself, and it is strange that they should still need enforcing; but the spirit of selfish monopoly which Adam Smith thus denounced is still alive and aggressive, as we have heard here to-day: For one, I shall make no concession to it.

The resolution, moreover, aims a deadly blow at our commerce with the United States—by far the most valuable we possess, and which I have done so much to create. When I went to Washington in eighteen hundred and fifty—

(Voice from factious member of the other side: "Oh! come now, we have heard all that before!")

The honorable gentleman sat down abruptly, in great disgust.

MR. FLUKE. I am here, sir, to represent the flour mills of Ontario, and I think it will not be denied that that interest is in

such a wretched state as to demand the prompt attention of Government. It is all very fine for emigration agents, governors in vacation, the press, travellers, &c., &c., to laud and puff the "great prosperity" of the Dominion, but we, the manufacturers, certainly see things in a different light. The flour-milling business, at any rate, is in a condition the very reverse of prosperous, and we owe it to the fact that American millers are allowed to "slaughter" their flour in this country, while we have no such liberty in theirs: we can only slaughter *here*. They send flour here, too, of a quality we cannot easily produce at all, and, of course, undersell us, simply because our miserable Government won't keep it out! Surely such a monstrous state of things cannot long be endured.

I do not dispute the fact, that we have far too many mills, and that internal competition cuts down prices, but since the mills are there, it is surely the duty of Government to see that they can be profitably worked, by securing to us our home market, if they cannot find one for us elsewhere. (Cheers. "Of course it is!")

MR. STARLING said: The resolution, Mr. Chairman, is based on false assumptions. Gentlemen who support it seem to imagine that Government should have the management of every business in the country. It would only be going a small step further to assume that Government should be held responsible for, and be made to father, the losses of every insolvent! Now I believe that Government should interfere as little as possible with the natural course of trade; and the only justification for customs duties at all is, that a certain revenue must be raised.

"Incidental protection" is a senseless *shibboleth*, for "protection" and revenue raising by import duties are utterly incompatible things. It is an easy matter indeed to make foreign goods dearer, but if the consumption is not thereby diminished, there is no "protection," and exactly in proportion as the protection thus afforded becomes efficient, does the revenue from imports decline, until finally there is none.

There is much talk about the necessity for giving our budding manufactures "a start." I can assure you, gentlemen, it will take a century or two before some of them can "go it alone." I have, myself, been manufacturing a certain article (I shall not name it, for, of course, I do not want the duties removed from *that* article,) for twenty years, thanks to "incidental protection." Well, during that time our Government has derived no revenue whatever from that article, because none has been imported; yet we could not continue that busi-

ness for a *day*, if the duty were removed. The only industries worth cultivating—I speak, of course, from a statesman's point of view—are those that take root naturally, and require no forcing under glass, so to speak.

I wonder some protectionist has not asked Government to exclude foreign grapes, in order to encourage our native vineyards; or to bring in an act to ameliorate the climate at once.

In conclusion, if "protection" is going to do such wonderful things for us, let us have the "courage of our convictions," and consistently apply it to all the world; and not to the United States only, who do not discriminate against us. (Silence.)

MR. STRAW (U. S.) said: I rise, Mr. Chairman, merely to explain that this "slaughtering," so called, is simply the natural effect of over production, and it must soon subside, for these things regulate themselves. Precisely the same thing is taking place between different States of our Union.

We are sending wool from Michigan to Massachusetts, which comes back to us in the shape of "slaughtered" goods, while our woollen mills are standing idle; but Michigan does not cry out for protection against Massachusetts.

Competition of this kind (or of any kind, for that matter, and whether it comes from abroad or from our neighbour across the street, makes no difference), is no doubt very unpleasant to every business man; but it is still more unpleasant to those who are compelled to "slaughter" their accumulating stocks, and must very soon prove suicidal to the butcher.

In short, gentlemen, "slaughtering" means dull times and bad business. There is a joke current in our Eastern States that pretty well illustrates the state of things there. A man, being told that 'ten mills make a cent,' replied, "that it was not so where he came from, as no ten *mills* in that region made a cent!

MR. WAT (*file*) said: Since "protection" is evidently the order of the day, Mr. Chairman, I would like to put in a claim for a little industry down in New Brunswick.

I refer to ship-building, in which we employ some fifty millions of capital. There will doubtless be a difficulty in the application of your principles to this branch of "manufacturing," for our American friends are not in the habit of "slaughtering" their *ships* in this country, so that to shut these out would not help us much. I think, however, this desirable end

may be secured by granting us a *bounty* of about \$10 a ton, or \$15,000 a ship.

Gentlemen who have so ably defended the principle of protection to native industries will scarcely, I think, object to so reasonable a proposition.

Mr. Wat's remarks were, however, received with coldness. It was thought that the interests he advocated had no more claim for protection than "products of the soil."

MR. SCANTLING now claimed the attention of the Board, and spoke as follows: Mr. Talker found it difficult to understand why products of the forest and mine were more deserving of protection than those of the soil. I will make the thing plain, even to his comprehension.

In one word, it is *capital* that needs protection. Now it requires a good deal of capital to carry on mining or lumbering, whereas any pauper may go into the woods and turn farmer.

When a man has nothing to lose, he has nothing to protect; but when the rich invest their accumulations in speculative enterprises, (for the benefit of their work-people) it becomes the duty of Government to see that they do not "come to grief." It is well known that the lumber interest is in a very melancholy state, and something must be done to resuscitate it.

Following the able argument of Mr. Slick, I may say that Heaven has been very bountiful to us in the matter of timber; and, as throughout all nature, we trace beneficent design,—it must have been intended that we should turn every stick of this timber to account, as speedily as possible.

Many capitalists desiring humbly to act as instruments in this design, have therefore engaged themselves in the exploitation of this natural wealth.

The result, however, has not, so far, been successful, for the people of the United States, less penetrated with providential design, won't buy our lumber as fast as we can make it!

It now remains for our Government to do something, or we must stop cutting timber, which is not to be thought of. (Hear! Hear!)

I would recommend that a bounty be granted to exporters of lumber, as our neighbors are doing, with such excellent results, with their refined sugars.

The effect of that bounty in the United States (for bounty it no doubt is, in part, tho' called a "drawback") has been such that their refiners are now exporting sugars in immense quantities, even to England and Scotland. It may be

said that if the people of England are thus supplied with sugars for less than they can make them, it is at the expense of the people of the United States. Very good; but these, again, are well repaid by the impetus given to so important a branch of industry. This has been proved over and over again to the satisfaction of every unbiased protectionist.

If we can induce our Government to apply these principles to our lumber trade, there is no limit to the business we will speedily do with all the world. Make the bounty high enough, and we will send our timber to Maine and to Norway, and undersell dealers there. We would send it even into the heart of the great Desert of Sahara! We could then employ hundreds of thousands of the lower classes in this trade, build up a rich middle class, and generally add to the prosperity of the whole nation. (Cheers.)

Before sitting down, I would remind gentlemen who have quoted from the political economists, that one of the latest and greatest of that school—MILL—has admitted, that protection in a young country, may, under certain conditions, be defensible. (Hear! hear!)

Mr. CANDID: I will gladly vote for the resolution, but I would like to see it changed in one particular.

The words "*encourage further investment*," are in evident contradiction with the general sense and aim of the resolution, and should therefore be left out or altered. It would be a queer way to enrich manufacturers to bring a multitude of competitors into the field. The benefits to accrue from our resolution should be strictly limited to those at present engaged in manufacturing, at any rate, until these had made enough to retire. I would suggest, therefore, that the words "*discourage further investment*," be substituted.

Mr. BLUE thought Mr. CANDID'S idea a good one, and he altered the resolution accordingly.

Mr. QUIBBLE said: I can quite appreciate, Sir, the view Mr. CANDID takes of the question before us. He, at any rate, is consistent, and sees that home competition is just as objectionable as foreign, to the man who wants to make money; and we may as well admit, *entre nous*, that money-making is what brings us all here to-day.

Of course, we are all Free-traders in principle, just as we are all believers in republicanism, or in doing to others what we would like others to do to us, &c., &c.; but, unfortunately we cannot, in the present state of society, reduce our principles

to practice. Every man who has a thing for sale, tries to get the highest price for it, and would regard it as simple idiocy, to help his neighbour to undersell him. Now, I happen not to be a manufacturer, and may therefore express myself more freely than I should probably do, if I had anything to "protect."

The main difficulty with me, in this resolution, and in all similar ones, is, that there is no logical or practical end to them; for the more you protect, the greater will grow the need for protection. Internal competition becomes worse than the foreign—stimulated as it is by an abnormal state of things,—and so cuts down prices, until there is another cry for more protection, and so on and on. In cases where foreign goods are shut out altogether, things are no better—perhaps worse,—but it will always be hard to bring manufacturers to admit that there are too many factories, and that some must be shut up to save the rest. Much has been made of the fact that prices have not advanced here under protection. This is very true, in a certain sense, and we see the reason, but it is, nevertheless, quite evident that *paying* prices are still too high, or at least higher than those of foreign goods, with all expenses added, or else why the demand, more importunate than ever, to keep these out by higher duties? A manufacturer will rise in his place in Parliament and say it is "perfectly absurd" to allege that protection makes higher prices, and in the same breath ask for legislation to prevent the consumer from getting foreign goods so cheap! These reasoners confound, or pretend to do so, the *ultimate* with the *immediate* or temporary effect of high protective duties.

Allusion has been made to a certain passage in the writings of Mr. Mill, who was once betrayed into saying something about protection that seems to be in contradiction with all his other utterances on the subject. Now, whether it is true or not, as some maintain, that Mr. Mill afterwards cancelled that passage, it is certainly straining it very much to apply it to our circumstances, and such a use of it would, I think, have given the author a fit; for he is careful to qualify it by adding that: "Such protection should be confined to cases in which there is good assurance that the industry 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."

Our protectionist friends must surely be very hard up for authorities, when they appeal to this passage in support of their clamour for more protection on every conceivable thing

they may try to manufacture, and on the ground that the high protective duties they have enjoyed for a generation or more have not yet enabled them to compete with their foreign rivals!

To accede to this demand, would be to do what Mr. Mill expressly warns us against.

Mr. PIGTAIL was the next speaker; he said: 'The tobacco interest, Mr. President, is in a sinking condition, and naturally looks to Ottawa for succour. The stoppage of our factories would amount to a national calamity, for it would leave the consumer—to whom tobacco has become the prime necessary of life,—entirely at the mercy of rapacious foreigners. You will agree that it is of the utmost importance, that tobacco should be cheap, for it exercises a most benign influence over the passions of the lower classes. It would be sad, indeed, in these hard times, if the poor man—in addition to the misery of knowing that his children were without bread,—should also be deprived of his pipe. (Hear! Hear!)

The satisfaction tobacco manufacturers derive from these reflections is very great, but it does not altogether compensate for lack of dividends; and it therefore devolves upon Government to sustain us in our philanthropic efforts. The importation of manufactured tobacco, in any shape, should be prohibited, and the Excise Duty reduced or removed. The loss to revenue could be made up in some other way.

I would recommend also, that the growth of the native Canadian tobacco be stopped. The use of this article, in its unmanufactured state, exercises a demoralizing effect on the mind, and a most unsavory effect on the person of the consumer. besides depriving the manufacturer of his just profit. (Hear! Hear!)

Mr. SHUTTLE said: I have listened with great pleasure to the remarks of Mr. Pigtail. They have the true ring about them, and recall to mind the good old times when England protected her manufactures right royally.

I would like to see his suggestion, about native tobacco, applied to the homespun garments worn in the Province of Quebec, which subject woollen manufacturers to a most unfair competition.

These home-made things should be interdicted, and farmers compelled to bring their wool to our factories. (Hear! Hear!)

Mr. Savant, in his excellent and learned speech, showed

us how England had, in former ages, built up the iron trade of that country. He might have shown that nearly all her great industries had been "built up" in the same way. Her woollen trade, for instance, was one of the special objects of her solicitude, and this was how she encouraged it. No mincing matters with her!

By the 8th Elizabeth, chap. 3,—it was enacted that the "exporter of sheep, lambs or rams was, for the first offence, to "forfeit all his goods, to suffer one year's imprisonment, and "then to have his left hand cut off." For the second offence, he was to suffer *death*. By the 13th and 14th Charles II., the exporter of *wool* was at once to suffer the extreme penalty. The fiscal legislation of our mother country continued of this character, unto the close of the 18th century, or until all her great manufacturing industries were well established, and we, as Mr. Savant had so conclusively shown, should follow her example. Our penal clauses might, of course, be less severe, but the exportation of wool should be prohibited at once, if we are to "build up" our woollen manufactures after the English style. (Loud cheers)

Mr. I. R. SHUH followed, and said: I will gladly vote for the resolution, because the great rubber interest I represent is run to earth, like every other, by the "unfair" and iniquitous competition of the United States.

Since that country has returned to what Mr. BLACK has so aptly termed "her normal condition of great prosperity," we have been literally over-run with her rubber shoes, and although these are not, it is true, sold at lower prices than our own, they are made (by a most contemptible duplicity,) of a much superior quality, so that it amounts to the same thing,—for under cover of getting a higher price, they are in reality "slaughtering," by giving a better article. It is to be hoped that our Government will understand the importance of thwarting this crafty design by imposing such duties as will banish these odious foreign wares altogether; or, at least, make them so costly as to place them beyond the reach of any but the rich and fanciful. Certainly, if the present apathy of our rulers continue much longer, there will soon be no demand for our shoes, and we must close our factories—with what disastrous consequences to the whole country I need not point out. (Hear! Hear!)

Mr. STOUT said: *Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen*, I cordially approve of the spirit of the resolution, and of the letter too, as far as it goes, but I quite agree with Mr. Blue that it would be

wise to extend its operation to England as well. I mean, of course, *high duties*, for in her case reciprocal ones would be of no avail. The industry I am more particularly interested in suffers most from the competition of that country, and it has been very clearly established by the able speeches we have listened to to-day, that competition of any kind is to be deprecated and put down if possible.

I would, therefore, recommend that Government be instructed to impose heavy duties on English ales,—amounting to prohibition,—and on all foreign wines and spirits too. There can be but one opinion as to the advantages that would flow to the whole Dominion, not only in a material, but also in a moral or temperance point of view, from the adoption of this policy; and if the exportation of barley were likewise forbidden, it would give an additional stimulus to our business, and prove a great blessing to the poor and thirsty, by reducing the price of beer.

“Products of the soil,” have been very properly eliminated from the resolution, as deserving of no consideration, and we must do our rulers the justice to say that they have not hitherto bestowed much consideration upon them; but a very absurd and very pernicious exception to this rule has been made in the case of *hops*, which are now highly protected.

I am sure you will all agree with me, that to protect my raw material is, as Mr. Ogle so cogently observed, “going just a little too far.” Government should be instructed to correct this anomaly. (Hear! Hear!)

Mr. BLUE thought the recommendations of Messrs. Pigtail, Shuttle, Shuh and Stout, well worthy of attention, and he would embody them in his resolution.

Mr. FOSSIL brought the debate to an appropriate close in the following terse and eloquent speech:

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I should be false to my sense of honor and of duty, did I fail to record my indignant protest against the arguments used here to-day by the opponents of our resolution. These gentlemen have quoted from the scribblings of that arch-humbler, Dr. Adam Smith, in favor of their theories, as if he could possibly have known anything whatever of the Canadian tariff, or of any other tariff, indeed, for he was never in business of any kind!

They call him the “founder of the science of political economy.” Why, political economy—of a kind, too, vastly

superior to his—had been in existence a hundred years before he was born! as Mr. Savant and others have shown; and, in fact, we may date the decline of that glorious system by which England “built up” her industries from the publication of Smith’s radical notions.

This pseudo-philosopher and his disciples professed to take very comprehensive views of fiscal matters, embracing the whole of the lower orders in their purview; and wrote glibly about the “greatest good of the greatest number,” and similar balderdash. But I should like to know, if our men of business are not the best judges of their own affairs?

Moreover, if we want authorities at all on these subjects, we need not go so far away, or so far back. We have them here at home. I, of course, allude to those eminent Canadian *littérateurs* and very original thinkers—“Kuklux,” the founder of the new philosophy of “promotion,” and Mr. J. M. Verdant, the great exploder of Youngism in all its pestilent ramifications. To the latter we owe much; for while he has often proved, to the simplest capacity, that the United States is a much better country than this, for the man of business, has yet kindly consented to live here in order to set us right in commercial legislation.

“Kuklux”, in his last great work, the “Ideal Tariff, or Revelation applied to Customs,” says (I quote from memory):

“Promotion is the equivalent, or resultant, of several co-relative economic forces, set into motion by sound science (which is not, be it observed, the same as ‘science of sound’); and acting and re-acting on one another in such a way as to create a beautiful social harmony, in which Home Industry becomes idealized, and the *labourer* is not to be confounded with the thing, labour—though we cannot always with certainty determine their relative values, nor whether they really do; but it does not matter to the issue that they should, because——”

MEMBER: Would you please to say that again?

MR. FOSSIL was about to comply, but members showed so much impatience to get away, and there were so many cries of “vote!” “vote!” that he was obliged to take his seat.

The vote was then taken, and the resolution, with all its amendments and embodiments, was, of course, carried by a large majority.

Members hurried out with a somewhat unseemly haste, of which we only afterwards learned the cause. It appears they entertained no doubt that Government, at the approaching session, would adopt the policy of the resolution, and they were

therefore anxious to communicate at once with their representatives at home, and instruct them to import as many "slaughtered" goods as possible before the tariff was raised.

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As we go to press, we learn that Government has disappointed this natural and just expectation, and there is, consequently, a general feeling of indignation.

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