

not suited to our best interests. That hon. gentleman made that two-fold declaration in a great speech, which he delivered at Toronto, on the 21st of May, 1879—and which has been reproduced by the *Globe*, from which I will quote:—

“ Well, Sir, I wish to say one word upon the National Policy, not upon its own merits, but just this that my own opinion is that the attempt to bring it into the contest is doubly disingenuous, because it is plain that the question is disposed of for a certain period—whether rightly or wrongly, for weal or woe—by the majority; although by no means a decided majority, as the returns seem to indicate, still a majority of the people of Canada, determined for a change in their fiscal management. That change has taken place, and I do not hesitate to say that until the lesson of our experience shall be added to the lessons derived from the experience of other countries, and to those arguments derived from reason and research, it will not be best to reverse the fiscal policy which has so long been laid down ”

A more stronger condemnation of the course followed by the Opposition, in so far as this Tariff is concerned could not be adduced, coming as it does not only from one of its prominent members, but from one who, in the estimation of many Reformers, is their coming leader. Mr. Speaker, if there is one thing more than another that has pleased me since the adoption of the National Policy—besides the most material proof that it is working well, that it is fulfilling our expectations—it is the fact that this Government seem disposed to give the example to the nation, that is to say, to encourage the homeproduction—to purchase everything that we can successfully produce, but which we used to import from foreign countries in former years. I think the thanks of this House and of the country are due, for one, to the late Minister of Militia, the hon. member for Terrebonne, for having taken the proper steps to expend in this country a large sum of money which we had to send every year beyond the sea. Henceforth the clothing required for our gallant militia will be manufactured here, and at reduced prices, if I am correctly informed; henceforth, we shall also manufacture our powder, our cartridges, and even the guns that we might be called upon to fire in defence of our country, if the sad day ever comes that it is necessary to furnish more deadly weapons than those which are employed in our party warfare. However important may be the manufac-

ture of those articles, the annual expenditure caused thereby is trifling, compared to the large sums of money which we have disbursed for years, to the benefit of foreigners, in connection with the building of our railways; sums of money which should have been spent long ago in the country had a proper system of Protection been adopted to foster the home production—to foster the production of iron. Indeed, Sir, we possess an immense and inexhaustible supply of that most valuable mineral throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion, in every Province, except Prince Edward Island, but nowhere in a larger quantity and in a better quality, than at a very few miles from our legislative halls, in the magnificent county of Ottawa. Sir, there are few persons, I dare say, who are aware of the extent of our market for the consumption of iron; few persons are aware of the immense quantity of iron which has been brought into this country in various forms; few persons are aware of the enormous amount of money which Canada has exported to England and to the United States on that account since Confederation—although many are fully aware of the cost of buying steel rails in a foreign market. The magnitude of the importation of iron in Canada may be judged, when it is established that for twelve years the Dominion has imported iron alone to the value of more than \$96,000,000, according to the following statement, drawn from official sources, and which I will submit to the House. In 1872 we imported iron to the amount of \$12,291,908; in 1873, \$20,202,753; in 1874, \$18,878,411; in 1875, \$15,783,960; in 1876, \$11,600,897; in 1877, \$9,330,982; in 1878, \$8,298,517, making a value in the aggregate of \$96,387,428, or, if we include the last year's, more than \$100,000,000—a sum sufficient to construct the whole Pacific Railway. Well, Sir, is it not to be regretted that Parliament has waited so long to encourage the manufacture of an article which exists here in such abundance, and for the production of which we possess all the necessary facilities? We possess, for instance, in the immediate vicinity of our iron ores, all the coal, all the peat, and all the lumber required to work them profitably—for so far as the iron ores of the Ottawa county are con-