

policy of the Canadian Government in allowing salt from England and her colonies into this country free of duty. Not only that, but they admitted from other countries last year no less than 40,000 barrels free of duty, not from England and her colonies, but from Italy, Spain, Portugal, St. Pierre and other places, and no less than 600 barrels came from the United States, free of duty, to the eastern market. How is it possible, our salt industries being shut out of the western and eastern markets by the policy of the Government, they can be successful? More than that, out of the consumption of 800,000 barrels last year in the Dominion, 532,000 were admitted free into the markets of Canada, and those 532,000 barrels carried westward largely by the Intercolonial Railway at reduced prices. No less than 224,000 barrels came free into Quebec, and 210,000 barrels into Nova Scotia, thus supplying the markets in the east at the expense of the markets in the west. But that is not all. The Nova Scotia coal mines are protected in order to enable them to send their coal as far west as possible. They never have sent their coal as far west as the salt pits of the County of Huron, or even as far as the city of Toronto, and still the amount of 60 cents a ton duty is placed on the importation of coal, and consequently the salt interests are to that extent embargoed, for the benefit, it is said, of the maritime coal interests, although no coal comes from Nova Scotia to western Ontario. The salt works would use about 20,000 tons of coal each year, and have to pay a duty of 60 cents a ton on that, which means \$12,000 a year and which gives protection to the coal interests of Nova Scotia, but, at the same time, burdens the coal user in Ontario. The fisherman's interests, and the coal interests, and other interests in the east are protected, while the interests in the west are allowed to languish under the policy which now exists. Now, if we are to have protection, let it be just. Let it protect all interests equally, for, in the words of Sir John Macdonald: "what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." Another matter to be considered in connection with the salt manufacturers is that they have frequently to replace the evaporating pans, and each time at considerable expense, which are composed of boiler plate which is not manufactured in Canada, but is imported from Germany, Scotland and the United States, and on which they have to pay a heavy duty. I think the Minister should take off the duty on that article, and place at the disposal of the manufacturers of salt what is a raw material and that they cannot obtain in this country. The cost of that duty comes to about \$3,000 a year, and the duties they have to pay on rivets and matters of that kind make up the total to over \$16,000, which they have to pay, practically, on the raw material. Is there any fairness in such a policy as this, which discriminates against the western salt interests in favour of the people down by the sea, and, at the same time, while we are paying 60 cents a ton duty on soft coal we cannot get that coal from Nova Scotia so far west? The National Policy has brought the salt industry into financial difficulty, in the first place; into an undesirable combination, in the second place; and the consumers into an increased price of many thousands of dollars, in the third place. For a time, in consequence of the great competition, the price of salt was very much reduced. It was sold two years ago for 50 cents a barrel, and everyone was selling it at a loss. The producers then said: Let us come

together and let us reason. They came together and they reasoned thus. They said: If the farmers and the labourers and others who use salt in this country are such confounded fools as to support a National Policy which is killing us, we will combine and put up the price and make these men pay, as we are dissipating our capital at those ruinous rates at which we have been selling in our limited market. We cannot sell salt for 10 cents less than it costs us. They, therefore, agreed together, and the fifteen salt wells went into an arrangement. This causes a difference of 30 cents a barrel on the salt which was used, which amounted to 30 cents a barrel on 232,000 barrels, or \$69,600, which the farmers had to pay last year which they would not have had to pay if the National Policy did not exist. They are nearly all Tories who are engaged in the salt industry, but, being embargoed in this way, being able to work only about five months in the year, being shut off from their natural markets, they say they must make reasonable profit for a year in the five months, and the result is that the National Policy has brought the salt interest to the condition in which it is now. Let me read what is said by one of the principal manufacturers. No doubt it will be said that I am speaking for the salt men, but I will give the House a statement made by Dr. Coleman, who was a supporter of the National Policy and is a member of the Conservative party. What does he say?

"To recapitulate—Our capital is sunk or gone. Our industry is tottering. It is unjustly discriminated against by our tariff. Our labourers are leaving the country for want of employment. English salt is coming into this country free of duty, or almost free, at the rate of 200,000,000 pounds a year, while all other goods, or nearly all, are taxed to our detriment. The loyalty cry will not stop the movement of the people across the line, and there must be a halt or else there may be a smash."

I think the halt is not likely to come, but the smash is not far in the future. Speaking in regard to the people who are leaving the country, he says:

"It is a sad sight for every thinking Canadian to witness, at we did a few days ago in this town, the exodus of a large batch of artisans and mechanics to Alabama, Dakota, and other states, for the want of employment at home, and to see the town band at the station cheering them on their journey. There were no tears or lamentations such as I witnessed in other lands where men are expatriating themselves. I venture to add that where the young go some of the aged will soon follow. And why should it be otherwise? They cannot purchase a stove, a pound of soap, a pound of sugar, a pair of boots, a yard of cotton, or a pound of oatmeal, that is not subject to a combine."

This was said before he went into a combine himself.—

"I am, and have been, a faithful believer in the National Policy, but I want to see it work equitably for all. When it leads up to an attack on the rights and liberties of the masses, it brings itself into contempt."

That is the expression of one of the largest salt dealers in the country, and I might go further, but I will not delay the House. I suppose I have given a sufficient number of articles to the House to convince the member for Assiniboia that articles are dearer under the National Policy than they were before. It was announced the other day that sugar was higher on account of the National Policy. It was acknowledged last year, when duties were imposed upon pork, that the duties would increase the price to the New Brunswickers, but that there was a compensation given by reducing the duty on molasses and allowing corn brought in to be ground to come in free for the people of