

from the experience of the past, that with reference to the trade question they have very slightly changed; that they are much in the same direction as they were, and that I am persuaded that the best interests of the country are not to be served by the policy in force at the present time, which gives an undue amount of protection to certain manufacturers and does not give a proper amount to others. The Tariff I advocate is a Tariff designed to give a revenue without unduly pressing upon the people, and to show that that has been my view, I will read not my own sentiments but an expression of opinion of a Board that could speak with a great deal of authority with reference to questions of trade and finance; I refer to the Board of Trade resolution passed in 1878 when the Mackenzie Administration was in power. That resolution was seconded by Mr. E. K. Green, who, if I remember rightly, was mentioned by the Finance Minister the other night. In quoting that resolution I give what were my sentiments on the trade question in 1876, what have been my sentiments as expressed in every speech I believe I have made down to the present time both in this House and on the different platforms of the country, even when my audiences were largely composed of agriculturists:

"That while in the estimation of this Board, the present Tariff of 17½ per cent. is fair and reasonable, yet in the event of its being found necessary to increase the duties for revenue purposes, that this Board would respectfully request the Government to consider the industrial development of the country in any readjustment of the Tariff."

That motion was carried. If the revenue demanded an increase of Tariff I would have that increase made in such a way that it would develop the industries of the country; but if not demanded by that, then, Sir, that the people should not be made to pay for sheer protection on any other ground. I may also say in conclusion that while I recognize the fact that the Government have a majority of supporters of this House, while I would not venture in any predictions of what may take place in the future, yet that this side of the House will not be unprepared for the coming conflict whenever it comes, or shrink from it. I should suppose that hon. gentlemen opposite will naturally be anxious that the same constituencies that pronounced on them in 1878 shall pronounce upon them when the next election comes. I suppose that hon. gentlemen will not endeavor to change the bounds of any of the counties. I am quite willing that the four additional constituencies that we are entitled to in Ontario, as the result of the Census, shall be so arranged as to ensure the election of supporters of the Administration. That satisfaction I would not attempt to take from them, and I suppose they will see that they enjoy it. But, having done that, I suppose that they being so strong in the affections of the people—so sure that the people will endorse their policy—they will never consent to any cutting and carving and dividing, and re-arranging of townships, to give undue advantage, for if they desire to give the country an evidence of their faith in what they say, they will take the verdict from the same constituencies that gave it in 1878. If they do that we are prepared, first to meet them and discuss these questions, and then to abide by whatever verdict may be given, as we did on the last occasion when we met them at the polls. If that verdict should be against us we will still maintain what we think is right; we shall battle for our principles until we shall find a majority of the people agreeing with us, and when that time comes, I trust that hon. gentlemen opposite, in transferring themselves from that side of the House to this, will conduct themselves with courtesy, with proper humility, and with the decency and quietness which we have always shown.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). I do not purpose, Mr. Speaker, to follow the hon. gentleman who has just addressed the House in all the subjects to which he has referred. It will be within the observation of hon. members, that during this

Mr. PATERSON (Brant).

debate the Opposition have taken a somewhat new position. The hon. member who has just taken his seat anticipated the debate, to some extent, on a motion he introduced into this House, evidently proposing to place himself before the country in a position less inimical to its great industrial interests, than that which during the last three years he and his party have occupied in Parliament. Since that time almost every speech which has been delivered on that side, if we except the speech of the late Minister of Finance, who, I am bound to say, was honest and candid enough to maintain here the same views that he has always maintained—has indicated that they propose to go to the country with the assurance to the manufacturing interests, that those interests will receive a certain amount of protection at their hands. Well, Sir, we can remember what took place during the last Parliament; we can remember that there were in Parliament, supporting the then Administration, a certain number of very pronounced protectionists; we can remember that the hon. member for South Brant, the hon. member for North Norfolk, the then hon. member for Lincoln, the late hon. member for West Montreal, the two hon. members for Hamilton and other hon. gentlemen in this House, made speeches in favor of protection, which undoubtedly for force, vigor and strength of argument, have not been excelled by any speeches delivered on the same subject since. But, Sir, we remember also that, with all the influence they possessed in Parliament, and with all the undoubted influence of the conviction that reigned in the minds of many people that they more accurately represented the popular sentiment than many of their friends, they were yet utterly powerless to induce their leaders to modify their trade policy; and I am sure that, under these circumstances, the great manufacturing and industrial interests of Canada of every kind will be slow to entrust the Government of the country to gentlemen, who, as a party, were quite regardless of the warnings of a few of their friends, and still adhered to the principles of Free Trade, so far as those principles could be applied in this country. There is one satisfaction to be derived from the statement the hon. member for South Brant has made to-night. We have listened with some anxiety to learn what is precisely the policy they are to give us, and to-night we find that the hon. member for South Brant has spoken of the Tariff which he proposes to give us, as the Tariff that was formerly in force. Well, Sir, that is, at least, a candid, a frank, a straightforward statement. The change we are to have is a change to the condition of things that existed under the late Administration; the Tariff of the future is to be the same Tariff that existed before, if the change of Government takes place, and with that frank and intelligible statement, I think we may fairly leave the issue to the people of this country. Hon. gentlemen opposite, beginning with the hon. member for North Norfolk, seem to be alarmed lest the issues before the country shall be confined to the National Policy; they tell us that long before the elections take place, that question will be so overwhelmed by the other issues which have since arisen and are arising that it will have but little influence with the people of Canada. The hon. member for South Brant, in a speech delivered in another place a few evenings ago, made the statement that the National Policy was no longer an issue in this country, that it was not worth while discussing it at all, that the questions which would be decided by the people of Canada in the elections, were the question of the financial administration of their affairs, the question of the Pacific Railway, the questions connected with the development of the North-West, and other questions apart altogether from the National Policy; and we were told that hon. gentlemen on this side of the House were most anxious to avoid the discussion of those other questions. Sir, for one, I have no desire to avoid the discussion of the other ques-