

which they were unable to provide for, the means of carrying on the Government of the country without rolling up a huge debt by deficits, but we were able to complete this gigantic work of confederation by establishing a great international highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, in order to carry on the trade and business of the country, and to give the means of intercommunication to our own people. Not only were we able to do that, but at the same time we expended no less than \$36,500,000, from 1878 to 1896, in deepening the canals so as to obtain a 14-foot navigation, thus affording increased facilities for trade and commerce between the people of the several provinces. Having given evidence all over the country in the erection of important public works as to what could be done for Canada under such a policy as ours, the time came when a wave of deep depression swept over Europe, paralyzed the commerce of Australia, paralyzed the commerce of the United States, and consequently affected Canada, as Canada must always be affected by the condition of commerce in the republic to the south of us. During this wave of depression in the United States, when 600 financial and banking institutions went to the wall, when millions of people were thrown out of employment, and when poverty stalked throughout that great country, Canada, thanks to the National Policy, inaugurated by the Conservative party, maintained a healthy financial and commercial position. I shall read to the House what I consider one of the highest tributes as to what the National Policy did for Canada during that period of depression, commencing in 1893. The late Hon. Mr. Wells, one of the most able and independent statisticians in America, wrote in the "Forum" in the early part of 1894, when everything was at its worst in the United States:

In the Dominion of Canada, separated from us on the north by an imaginary line, there has been no panic, no unusual demand for money, no stoppage of industries, no restriction of trade, no increased rate of interest; in short, nothing beyond the ordinary course of events, except so far as these events may have been influenced by contiguity to what may be termed a financial cyclone whose pathway of destruction was contiguous to, but not within, Canadian territory.

That, Mr. Speaker, is high testimony indeed as to what the National Policy did for Canada. I claim, Sir, and I am prepared to substantiate my claim in the face of any hon. gentleman opposite, that all the prosperity, all the increased trade, all the increased revenue which hon. gentlemen opposite now so loudly claim credit for; all is due to the great Liberal Conservative party which laid the foundation of the National Policy, and laid them so solid that the winds of Liberalism and all the efforts of Liberals to destroy could not prevail. Take the statistics from 1868 to 1898 and you will have further and even greater

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

proof of what the National Policy did for Canada. Here they are:

TOTAL TRADE.

1868	.....	\$131,027,532
1898	.....	304,091,720

POPULATION.

1868	.....	3,371,594
1898	.....	5,500,000

EXPORTS, ALL KINDS.

1868	.....	\$ 57,567,888
1898	.....	163,785,770

IMPORTS, ALL KINDS.

1868	.....	\$ 73,459,644
1898	.....	140,305,950

TOTAL DEPOSITS IN BANKS.

1868	.....	\$ 52,299,050
1898	.....	212,014,635

SAVINGS BANKS.

1868	.....	\$ 5,057,607
1898	.....	63,056,606

TOTAL REVENUE.

1868	.....	\$ 13,687,928
1898	.....	40,555,238

REVENUE FROM POST OFFICE.

1868	.....	\$ 616,802
1898	.....	4,686,650

MILES OF RAILWAY.

1868	.....	2,278
1893	.....	16,718

RAILWAY EARNINGS.

1868	.....	\$12,116,716
1893	.....	59,715,105

REVENUE FROM RAILWAYS AND CANALS.

1868	.....	\$ 581,503
1893	.....	3,117,670

I do not hesitate to say, Sir, that these figures give clear evidence of the unquestioned value of the National Policy to the country, for they show the greatness and the prosperity that Canada has achieved under the National Policy. To whom is this prosperity due? Is it due to hon. gentlemen opposite? Is it due to the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), who when he was threatened with the loss of office was willing to sacrifice the best interests of Canada so as to cling to office, although the people starved. No, Sir, it is due, and no one knows it better than hon. gentlemen opposite, it is due to that great party which elevated Canada out of the position in which she had been placed by the maladministration of the Liberals, and raised it on a pinnacle of such grandeur that these gentlemen opposite, when charged with the duty and responsibility of government, quailed before the thought of attempting to strike down with their unholy hands this policy which had done so much good for Canada. Sir, we have the greatest tribute to the benefits conferred