

tion, that it was easier to get a large majority against the leader of the Conservative party himself, than it was to obtain it against one of his followers on the back benches. Now, they came to the resolution and amendment just submitted. He (Mr. Dymond) had traced the history of hon. gentlemen opposite in the capacity of Protectionists for eighteen years; he had shown that, up to that time, hon. gentlemen opposite had never done anything which should entitle them to confidence, as the authors of what they were pleased to call a National Policy. The House had seen that, at the period when, if ever, such a policy should have been carried out, they refused to adopt it, and when they had such a policy, in a mild and temporary form, they strangled it and expunged it from the Statute-book. The right hon. member for Kingston had stated last night that the policy of his party had been announced in no uncertain manner. With the permission of the House, he (Mr. Dymond) would look into the amendment, which would have to be interpreted by the utterances, here and elsewhere, of the right hon. gentleman and his friends. The first point stated in the amendment was that, "The welfare of Canada requires the adoption of a National Policy which, by a judicious readjustment of the tariff, will benefit and foster the agricultural, mining, manufacturing, and other interests of the Dominion." He believed there had never been a tariff which was not designed by its author to benefit the agricultural, mining, manufacturing and other interests of the Dominion. In framing a tariff, those interests were always considered, and nothing was contained in the amendment that indicated that the right hon. member for Kingston, if it were carried and he again obtained power, would be compelled to do anything more than the present Finance Minister had done in readjusting the tariff on past occasions. The amendment further stated:

"That such a policy will retain in Canada thousands of our fellow-countrymen now obliged to expatriate themselves in search of the employment denied them at home, will

restore prosperity to our struggling industries now so sadly depressed, will prevent Canada from being made a sacrifice market, will encourage and develop an active inter-provincial trade."

That might be very true, but it was only the opinion of the right hon. member for Kingston, a gentleman who, up to the present time, had never carried a Protectionist policy into practice. In that portion of the amendment which expressed what his policy would be, there was nothing to show that, if the right hon. gentleman went to the country and was returned in triumph, he would initiate a National Policy or afford one cent more protection than was given by the present tariff. The amendment went on to say:

"And, moving, as it ought to do, in the direction of a reciprocity of tariffs with our neighbours, so far as the varied interests of Canada may demand, will greatly tend to procure for this country eventually a reciprocity of trade."

That, again, was simply an opinion that some tariff which the right hon. gentleman might devise might possibly secure for the Dominion reciprocity of trade with the United States. But, before the people returned the right hon. member for Kingston to power, he should give them some intimation as to whether there was any new principle underlying his proposition, and whether he really would be a Protectionist in office—which he had never been before—as he professed to be a Protectionist in Opposition. The term "National Policy" was a mere phrase. It might mean a Free-trade policy, or a policy which abolished duties altogether; it might mean a highly protective policy similar to that of the United States, or it might refer to a revenue tariff. So far as the phrases employed went, there was nothing to guide them as to what this National Policy meant. But the right hon. member for Kingston had quoted not only his own views and opinions, but those which had been expressed at a meeting of Conservatives, recently held at Toronto. He (Mr. Dymond) had reason to believe that some strange things had been discussed at that meeting. Among other reso-