I am very much mistaken. If it does not there is no use in having a devil. The country is this year having the first spasm. Desperate diseases require desperate remedies. If the spasm will cure the country and defeat the Government I am willing to stand the spasm. I am willing to run the risk. That reminds me of a circumstance that happened to a man who became unfortunately addicted to drinking, and who became a drunkard. He suffered a great deal from the indulgence and had to endure the awful horrors of delirium tremens, and other effects that follow. At last he resolved to knock off, and he did it suddenly. The consequence was that the reaction was so great he became very sick and had a spasm. His friends went for a doctor. The doctor came and said he has stopped drinking too suddenly. You must take a little liquor; if you have a second spasm you may get over it, but if you have a third spasm you will die. The man replied: I want to live, doctor. These spasms are dreadful; but I know what it is to suffer the effects of drunkenness, and much as I want to live, I think, doctor, I will try the second spasm anyway. I feel just as that man did as regards the Government. As far as this country is concerned, I will try another spasm, if that will cure the evil. I read, during the recess, in some paper, the following:—

"A meeting of the manufacturers of white cotton was held to-day in the office of Messrs. David, Morrice & Co., for the purpose of deciding the best means to relieve the market of surplus stock, which keep prices depressed and checks the demand. Some days ago the manufacturers of grey cottons had a meeting, and, it is understood, decided to export the surplus stocks of grey cotton to England. Two courses are to be considered to-day by the manufacturers of white cotton. The first course is to close down the mills altogether for some months. This would involve the scattering of operatives some distance, and cause a depression and also some injury to mill machinery, which gets out of order when not in use. The alternative is to follow the example of the manufacturers of grey cottons and export goods, at a great loss, to some market, probably England. How great a loss such a course would involve may be gathered from the fact that cotton dealers are protected in the home market by duties amounting to about 30 per cent., besides the protection which the cost of freight on English goods gives. The loss would probably amount to about one-half of the actual costs of the goods. The result of such a course would be to immediately relieve the home market of the surplus stock and a consequent sharp advance in prices here."

Now, Mr. Speaker, when this policy was being inaugurated, when it was being lauded to the skies, and we were told what it was going to do, we were assured that competition would always keep the prices low. Now, what have we here? How have they carried out this promise? We find that as soon as stock accumulates and prices are likely to go down they immediately propose to send their surplus abroad, to slaughter their goods in a foreign market, and supply them cheap to the people of another country. While the poor of this country are buying their cotton goods and paying them good prices, whenever competition arises they want to slaughter their goods in a foreign market, and thus always keep the prices high for the poor people at home. That is my hon. friend's idea of a good country to live in. I do not agree with him. I think it is a bad country to live in, and I think a policy which has that effect is a bad policy. It will not do for them to have competition and keep prices low; they have to get rid of their goods somehow. The first thing they should do, and the Government should do, if they are lovers of their country, if they wish to benefit their own people, is to give their cotton cheap to the poor people of this country. But if they did that they would not make money; and so, in order to keep the prices high for the home consumer, they send their goods abroad and give the foreigners instead of their own people the benefit of low prices. If they can manufacture here so as to send their manufactures abroad and sell at a profit, they are always sure of the home market. If you manufacture anything cheap enough to go abroad you will never allow the foreigner to come into the home market, whether free or taxed; they will always have this market, for they have protection enough in freights and commission to give a profit, anyway, if they can only do that. Now, whatever hon. gentlemen may say, there is a great commercial depression in the Dominion. I am glad to say that I have seen the time when it was harder for people to live. Fortunately for the Government the prices of the necessaries of life are low, notwithstanding the protective policy. Bread is cheap; sugar is cheap—no doubt about it—and many other things which the people have to use or wear. If they were not I would not want to take a risk on your lives. If those things were not cheap for the people, notwithstanding your tariff, I tell you you would look a good deal bluer than you do to-day; and you deserve no credit because these things are cheap. What is troubling the Government now? The National Policy has been five years in existence and why are these delegations coming here? The protected industries have had five years of a fair chance, four of them very prosperous, and yet they are still coming; they are never satisfied. Scripture tells us that there are three things which are never satisfied, but if that Scripture were to be written now-a-days they might have added another—the manufacturers. They are never satisfied; they are here day after day: one delegation about this thing, and another delegation about that; some wanting a little more duty on flour; others wanting a little more duty on something else. The truth is, your policy is not, and it never can be perfect. But I notice that there are no delegations coming up here from the farmers, from the lumbermen, from the fishermen—three classes that compose a large majority of the people of this Dominion. They do not come to this Government or this Parliament asking for any favors on that score. They are depressed; they suffer from the depression in commerce in common with others, but they know that they need not apply here—they know that no lumberman, no fisherman, no farmer, need apply here. They must grin and bear it. There was once a poor woman who was in deep affliction, and a minister called in to comfort her in her distress. He said, "My dear woman, do you rest on the promises?" "Yes, I do," she replied. "Please tell me," he said, "what promise you rest upon." She said: "I find most comfort in that blessed promise, 'grin and bear it.'" That is the promise that the fishermen and the farmers and the lumbermen have to rest upon; they have the blessed comfort of grinning and bearing it. I hope they will not have to grin and bear it for a great many years, but I am afraid they may. It may be asked why are these manufactures so depressed, after all the advantages which have been given to them? If they have the right to take so much money out of the consumer why are they so depressed? It is a natural question. Now, that is very possible, too. A law may be so enacted that a great many people can be fleeced and yet nobody be made the richer. That has been the effect of the National Policy. Inducements were held out to manufacturers and capitalists to go into manufactures, to invest their money, in order that they might become suddenly rich. They took the bait; they invested their money; but, instead of going on reasonably fast, instead of going on moderately and cautiously, as they should have done, they have invested millions in these enterprises; and what is the result? They have invested their money, and it is idle, if not entirely lost; and, I think, the Government and their policy are responsible for that loss. They told a story when I was a boy, which illustrates the idea that misery loves company. A sharp Yankee came to the town with an extraordinary kind of an animal in a box. You paid a quarter of a dollar and you looked through a little glass into a box, and got a view of this wonderful animal. First one came, paid his quarter, saw the animal, and went away. Another came, and then another, and so on, until the whole community had paid their quarters, and got a view, and the last man let out the secret and told them that the wonderful animal was only a common house cat, with a very long tail, which the man had turned up over her