

or any other Administration "of all the talents" to come into power here. Such governments are very much like precocious children—they turn out more stupid than those from whom less is expected in their youth. As to the product of the Session, I think it is the result of having too many legislatures. Nothing was more absurd than the portion of the Confederation Act which established so many legislative bodies. It is preposterous and ridiculous, and the system will break down some time—and the sooner the better. It was one of those grand blunders for which no Ministry in particular is answerable—one of those insanities which sometimes seize upon people, and from which they do not recover without paying pretty dearly for them. I fail to see any great products of any session since Confederation, except the admission of a few Provinces into the Dominion. But it has been well said, "Happy is the country whose history is not long." I do not believe that legislation could improve the condition of the country. On the contrary, I believe that quackery of all kinds is deleterious to the constitution (human or national) that suffers from it. The hon. gentleman is one of those who, here and elsewhere, have, I believe, always professed not to be protectionists. I can understand that the hon. Senator from New Brunswick (Mr. Wilmot) who is a protectionist, and says the Government ought to do something to relieve the country, is perfectly right from his point of view, but, except protection, I have not heard of any policy which has been suggested that the Government could adopt to improve the condition of the Dominion. I should like to know what particular theory the hon. Senator from Saugeen has. The hon. Senator from New Brunswick (Mr. Wilmot) is not only a protectionist, but he is a currency doctor, and perhaps, according to his own view, legislation might accomplish a great deal, but whether it would be beneficial or injurious to the country could only be known by experience. But my hon. friend from Saugeen is not a currency doctor. One of the last ideas with him I should imagine, would be to issue shinpasters, for according to the hon. Senator from New Brunswick this is the only way of saving the country. As to this depression which prevails, it is not confined to

*Hon. Mr. Penny.*

this country. It is experienced throughout the whole of the world. Take the State of New York. During the last three months an enormous amount has been lost through bankruptcies.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT—There have been more in Canada in proportion to our population, as Dunn, Wyman & Company's report shows.

Hon. Mr. PENNY—Take the country that we all look up to as presenting the greatest financial success—England. I was reading in the *Pall Mall Gazette* today, an account of a great strike in Lancashire. The masters are demanding that the men shall submit to a reduction of ten per cent. in their wages, and this after reduction upon reduction of wages for months past. It is shown that in a factory of five hundred spindles there is a loss of £3,000 this year, and when the reduction of ten per cent. is made, there is still to be a loss of £1,500 a year. I should like to know if that is not a state of depression.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT—That is the result of free trade.

Hon. Mr. PENNY—The hon. gentleman thinks his own side is right, evidently; but in England there are men like Gladstone on one side, and Sir Stafford Northcote on the other, who do not go in for any such policy as the hon. gentleman believes in. They are doing what a wise physician does with a patient—leaving nature to cure what he cannot touch without making things worse.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT—Bismarck thinks differently.

Hon. Mr. PENNY—I do not regard Bismarck as a successful financier. He made a good man in blood and iron, but he has shown himself anything but a good political economist. He had an opportunity of bringing more gold into his country than any other financier in the world, and the result of his management has been to bring the country to the verge of bankruptcy.

Hon. Mr. MCLELLAN—He has found out his mistake.