

about to take place, the Conservative rooms in the city of Hamilton were opened, and the old placards and the old flag and the old brag and the old swag were unfurled to the breeze, the Tory owners of the Hamilton foundries at once set them to work. I dare say that if they had been in the secret of the Government, their men would have been idle still. My hon. friend spoke of the building trade of Hamilton being bad during the time of the Mackenzie Government. Let me tell him, after an experience of twenty-five years in this country, that the building trade of Canada was never in a worse condition than it is to-day. In the very city the hon. gentleman represents he will find hundreds of idle workmen walking around looking for work. It is true, they are laying macadam on the streets; but an acquaintance of mine there yesterday told me that the workmen were only getting an hour or two of work when the contractors saw fit to give it to them. My hon. friend might have told this House how the National Policy had driven R. M. Wanzer out of his factory in Hamilton, a man whose name was known throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion, and, in fact, in every part of the world where his machines were introduced; but, owing to the protective duties imposed on his raw material, his business was destroyed, and his factory closed. Then, my hon. friend spoke of the smelting works about to be started in the city of Hamilton. I trust that those works will be started, and that they will cost \$400,000, as he says they will; but the cost, so far, has been borne by the citizens of Hamilton, who passed a by-law providing that if a certain sum of money was spent in the starting of smelting works, the city would grant a bonus of both land and money; and so far, whether the money has been spent or not, the company have been able to induce the people of Hamilton to give them the money and the land, and that is all that has come of the smelting works, so far as I can see. The building was of so permanent a character that the first gale of wind which swept across the district from which I come, blew to the ground one of those tall chimneys we have heard so much about. My hon. friend also talks of sugar. I do not know where he gets his information; but when we were fighting the sugar combine of Nova Scotia, some of his Conservative friends came to me and asked me to prevent, as far as lay in my power, the organization of the sugar combine that was going to be formed in Halifax. They said it would control the trade of the east, while the Montreal combine would control the trade of the west, and the whole sugar trade of the country would be at the mercy of these two combines. One of these gentlemen told me that when they imported sugar from abroad they were able to make money, but to-day when any one has the courage to import

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sugar, a doubt is expressed by the customs authorities as to the value of the sugar, it is detained for an examination, and scrutinized; and when, at last, it is passed through the custom-house, the price of sugar drops, the importer has to sacrifice his sugar, and then the combines raise the price to the old figure again. My hon. friend also spoke about the postal service of Canada. Perhaps he is not aware that the postal service of Canada is a branch of the general postal service of Great Britain, and that the United States have as much to do with the postal arrangement between the two countries as the Canadian authorities have, and I am glad to say that on both sides of the line the most amicable postal arrangements are carried on. The hon. gentleman said he would like to know what the Liberal party have to offer the farmers. Well, I can tell him that what we offer the farmers is taxes for revenue only, economy in administration, and no boodling. We were told last session by the late First Minister, who, I regret, has departed, that we would not be able, for some years to come, to get experimental farm reports, because the Government had to economize. The first economy they were to practice was upon the farmer; and if we have to wait until this amount of money is saved by this reckless and extravagant Government, the farmers will never receive a report of the experimental farm. My good friend spoke of young Canadians in the United States coming back to Canada. I regret that too few of them come back; but I have this to say, that our Canadian young men, when they go to the States, are able to take positions there which are alike a credit to themselves and an honour to the country from which they come. There is scarcely a factory or a Government work, or a work of any importance that is not directly or indirectly administered by Canadian young men, and they enjoy the most implicit confidence of their employers. The hon. gentleman says that the National Policy is a benefit to the country, to the farmer and to the merchant. It is not a benefit to all the manufacturers, but only to the favoured few who have the ear of the Government, and for whom the Finance Minister is the mouthpiece on certain occasions. Let me read you this extract from the report of the annual meeting, this year, of the shareholders of the Montreal Cotton Company:

At the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Montreal Cotton Company, which was held to-day, very satisfactory reports of the year's operations were submitted. The profits for the year were \$174,628.28, being about 15 per cent on the capital of \$1,200,000. A dividend of 8 per cent, amounting to \$84,000, was paid to the shareholders, being 8 per cent for the first nine months on \$1,000,000, and on \$1,200,000 for the last quarter of the year; \$15,000 was taken off the building account, \$25,000 put aside for wear and tear of machinery, and \$19,000 taken off for new