

representation of South Middlesex. Has a returning officer been appointed and the writ issued?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. No, the returning officer has not been appointed and the writ has not been issued, but it will be on Saturday.

MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

Mr. McCARTHY. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to know when we may expect the papers connected with the Manitoba School Acts to be printed and brought down?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. They are all brought down. I moved last night, at the adjournment, for the printing of the first set of papers; and I intimated that if any hon. gentleman desired to have the other papers printed, he need only signify his desire and a similar motion will be made. The first set includes the petitions on which the appeal is based and the report of the sub-committee to which they were referred.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). It would be very important to have the argument of the counsel before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council printed.

Mr. LAURIER. My hon. friend was not in the House last evening when I suggested, and the First Minister agreed, to have the report of the sub-committee of the Privy Council printed with all the petitions on which that report is based. If we are to wait until the argument before the Privy Council is printed, I am afraid the delay will be too great.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE TARIFF.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Foster for the House to go into Committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty; and the motion of Sir Richard Cartwright in amendment thereto.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) He would be a bold man indeed who, at this stage of the debate, which has now lasted six days, could hope to say a great deal that was either new or interesting, and my main excuse for intruding myself upon the House at present is that I think it right to present a few statements of fact from the stand-point of the Maritime provinces. And while I do so, I do not desire the House to understand that I wish to judge the important question we are discussing from a sectional stand-point at all. I cannot, however, fail to note that the larger number of those, and properly so, who have taken part in the debate, have spoken from the two larger provinces of Canada, and each one spoke from the local stand-point of his own province, and without reference to the Maritime provinces.

Mr. LAURIER

Throughout the whole Dominion, I do not suppose there was any section, in which such great hopes were indulged at the inception of Confederation or so many prophecies of brilliant times made, as in the Maritime provinces, and I think if there is one thing both sides can agree upon, it is this, that, so far as the Maritime provinces are concerned, at any rate, not one of those promises has been fulfilled, and not any province of the three has reached forward to a measurable distance of that prosperity which was predicted and hoped for when we unfortunately joined this Confederation.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Hon. gentlemen interrupt me with cries of "Oh." I do not wish to disparage the efforts made to form a great nationality in this Dominion. I do not wish to blame other parts of the Dominion for the want of prosperity existing in the Maritime provinces. I am frank enough and honest enough to admit that if there is a part of the Dominion responsible for the National Policy and the evils which have followed in its train, it is the Maritime provinces. It was only a few years ago that a protectionist was something unknown in those provinces. The people had prospered under free trade, or under the nearest approach to it possible, with the debts we owed and the liabilities we had to assume; and every one knows that when the prosperity we had then under practical free trade was joined to reciprocity with the States, there was an enormous increase of wealth in that portion of the Dominion. The man in those days who would have ventured to stand up and announce himself a protectionist would have been hooted from the hustings. But, Sir, a change came over the spirit of their dream, and there is no use of blinking the fact that the National Policy has been supported for the last fourteen years with greater fervour and greater zeal by those members who come from the Maritime provinces than by any others; and if it is fraught with evil for us, if we are suffering from its effects more than the rest of the Dominion, I am frank enough to say that we have ourselves to blame. But, Sir, the National Policy is upon its trial in a way that it never was before. We have been attacking this policy year after year from this side of the House. We have been showing, each from his local stand-point, that it is a failure and an injury to the country. We, from the Maritime provinces, have shown that shipping has decreased, that land has gone down in value, that people are leaving the country and that we are poverty-stricken as compared with what we were years ago. But our cry has fallen upon deaf ears. But the National Policy is upon trial now, not only by its opponents, but in the House by its friends. We have the Order Paper covered with motions presented by its friends attacking this policy, attacking the duties on corn, coal oil, agricultural im-