

taken a leaf out of his book in the present instance, and has copied from his *role*. For my own part I was somewhat dissatisfied in the speech of the Finance Minister. I did hope, Sir, that with the evidence of the depression on the right hand and on the left, with the fact staring us in the face that the manufacturing industries of the country were in a depressed condition, and the further fact that almost every branch of business in the Dominion of Canada was in the same state—I did hope that the hon. the Finance Minister would have made a clean breast of it, and would have come to this House the present Session and stated boldly and squarely that the National Policy was a failure, acknowledge that he was incapable of lifting the country out of the confusion and depression which his unwise policy had brought it to, state frankly that he was convinced it was impossible to make the country prosperous and the people rich by Act of Parliament, and that, therefore, he had determined to retrace his steps. Had he done so, Mr. Speaker—I speak for myself, and I think I can speak for a good many on this side of the House—we would have had some sympathy for him; we would have said, As you have acknowledged you were wrong, as you have made up your mind in future to pursue the course we have been advocating for the last five years, we will assist you to the fullest extent and help you out of your difficulties. The Finance Minister, I am sorry to say, did not think proper to take that course. He has rather chosen to say to the people of this country, I know the business of the country is in a depressed state; I know I have taxed you beyond what you can well bear; I know I have taken \$20,000,000 more out of your pockets than I required for the necessary expenditure of the country; I know all this and I know there is only one way out of this difficulty at the present time, and that is to make a change in the trade policy of the country, and go back as near as possible to a revenue tariff. Well, Sir, the Finance Minister after having in effect told the people that notwithstanding they have these hardships to bear; notwithstanding he had taken this \$20,000,000 from the pockets of the people—he says to them in effect: Well, you ought not to complain, because you are not so badly off as the people of some other countries. And then my hon. friend starts on a false basis to show that the taxation of the Dominion is not quite equal to the taxation *per capita* of the United States and of the Australian colonies. Well, Sir, if that were true, is it any great consolation to the people down by the sea, who have paid their proportion of this \$20,000,000, which has been expended in bridging canyons and tunnelling mountains on the Pacific slope—is it any satisfaction for them to know that they are no worse off than the people of some other countries. I say it is not; and I say the Finance Minister will not get any credit from the poorer classes, whose bread and fuel are taxed to find money to build a railway thousands of miles away from them, and from which they can never get a return of one dollar. Now, Mr. Speaker, what the country complains of at the present time, is the fact that the Government have been false to their pledges, that they have not carried out their promises. They promised, if they succeeded to power, in 1878, to make times good by Act of Parliament; they promised that there should be no depression; they promised that the people would soon be made rich if they would only put on all sail. Well, I ask where are those people now who took the advice of the Finance Minister and put on all sail in order that they might become rich in a short time? Hundreds of them have gone into bankruptcy in the last year, and I am afraid that hundreds more will follow in the next year. But, as I before said, what the country has to complain of at present is that the Government have not fulfilled their pledges. Now, I must, at the risk of repeating what has been said before, briefly refer to the means used in 1878 to defeat the Mackenzie Government, and I think I

am privileged to do so in consequence of the statement made on the other side of the House that the answer to all that has been said by us was the fact that the country in 1878 had pronounced in favor of the National Policy, and had duplicated that verdict again in 1882. Now, Sir, when the elections were about to be held in 1878, we stated that if the party led by Sir John Macdonald came into power the country would have to submit to a protective policy and, consequently, increased taxation. That statement was denied most positively. But it was thought necessary by the friends of the Conservative party to telegraph to Sir John A. Macdonald, in order to ascertain whether he had made such a promise, and, if so, whether he intended to carry it out. I will read his message in reply, as it was printed in the *Morning Herald* of Halifax, in capital letters at the head of the editorial column, and transmitted through the country in every direction. It was as follows:

“What Sir John says: Neither at London nor elsewhere have I gone beyond my motion in Parliament—

Well, very few of the people knew what that motion was—

“and I have never proposed an increase, only a readjustment of the tariff.”

Well, that is very positive.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I suppose it is true.

Mr. VAIL. I say that telegram, coming from Sir John Macdonald, who was the leader of the Conservative party in this country, had a wonderful effect upon the people, because many of them believed it. No answer could have been sent at that time which would have had such an effect upon the elections as that telegram.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Hear, hear.

Mr. VAIL. The hon. gentleman says “hear, hear.” It may have been something to be proud of to deceive the people, but it was nevertheless a piece of deception of the very worst kind.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Hear, hear.

Mr. VAIL. No doubt it was a good political move; at the same time, I think if the hon. gentlemen had to do it over again, he would not send exactly such a reply.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes, I would.

Mr. VAIL. Well, it had its effect on the elections of 1878, and therefore those elections were carried by deceiving the people. Now, another little piece of deception was practised in St. John, New Brunswick, by the Finance Minister. That hon. gentleman told the people of St. John that the Mackenzie Government had been spending too much money, that they were an extravagant Government, that this country could not afford to spend more than \$22,000,000 a year, that had he been Finance Minister during the five years previous, he would not have spent more than \$22,000,000 per annum, that that was all the country required, and any man who would spend more than that, sum was not fit for the office of Finance Minister. Now, let us see what this economical Finance Minister has expended since he came into power. In the very first year after he came in, in 1879, the expenditure was, in round numbers, \$24,650,000; in 1881, it was \$25,000,000; in 1882, \$27,000,000; in 1883, \$28,730,000; in 1884, \$31,107,000; and the expenditure for the present year will be still more. What will the country think of this, after the assurances given the St. John people. Now, there is a certain expenditure which is under the control of the Government themselves, and which they can make large or small, just as they choose, that is the expenditure for the civil service of the country. This expenditure requires to be looked after more closely than perhaps any other. Now, I have a statement of the expenditure on this service from