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tariff applies. A customs tariff might destroy industries, or it might build up industries. This fact could not and would not be controverted, and the proper solution of the question, as to whether they should adopt a customs tariff that would have the one or the other of these effects, would largely influence the future prosperity of our young country.

#### **The Raising of Revenue not the sole purpose of Customs Tariff.**

The amendment before the House is comprehensive, though concise. It implies that it is the duty of every nation to adjust its customs tariff to its own special needs; that the impossible task is not imposed upon any country, of looking after the interests of every other nation, but a duty devolving upon each nation to adjust its own tariff with special reference to its own peculiar needs, having in view, also, its relations to other countries. Every customs tariff should aim at developing the maximum of production of which the country is capable. In framing a tariff, we should consider all the resources of the country, all its dormant and unused energies and capabilities; the wealth which lies below the soil in our mines, as much as the wealth of the soil, and the wealth above the soil, in our lumber. We should also consider the resources of the country with reference to its capability of becoming a successful manufacturing nation; and more than that, we should consider the capacity and aptitude of the people, and aim at framing the tariff so as, in the largest degree, to develop the varied powers of all the people, and give them an opportunity of engaging in that calling or department of business to which they may have special aptitude or inclination. We do not believe in the views propounded by gentlemen opposite, that it is not the business of Government to care for any of these things, that Government is a mere taxation and revenue distributing machine, which should move according to certain fixed laws and ultimate principles. The supporters of this amendment claim, on the contrary, that the financial policy of a country should not be based on any ultimate principle of free trade or protection, but that it should be specially adaptive to the conditions of the country to which it is applied.

#### **A True National Policy Defined by Mr. Charlton in 1876.**

We believe that every customs tariff should have a distinct and definite purpose and intelligent aim; that it should be based upon a correct estimate and appreciation of all the varied resources and capabilities of the country, and should shape them in the direction of their best possible development. The general views affirmed in this amendment, have been more than once stated in this House, by many able and thoughtful members, clearly and distinctly; yet the House will pardon me for stating that the exposition of my honorable friend the member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) in 1876, then a Protectionist but now an avowed Free Trader, was the clearest and best that has been given. I do not purpose troubling the House