

a strictly correct one; they do not pretend to have done so; they have given an approximate report of the condition of things as they found them in the different cities and towns they visited. I do not propose to go into those particular details, but simply to state what everyone knows to be the truth, that there has been a large increase in the manufacturing capacity of the people of this country, as illustrated by the new industries that have sprung up in all parts. In spite of that and of the fact that the existing factories have been employed full time, it is only with the greatest difficulty that orders can be filled at this moment. Let me give you an illustration. Last year we had a provincial exhibition in the city of Montreal, and we had occasion to get an engine and boiler for the machinery hall; we sent round notices to a number of the people in Montreal who were in the habit of making those articles, and in addition we sent similar notices to other parties outside, for we required to have them within a particular time; and what was the fact? That only one man in Montreal even offered to do the work and when we went round and asked them why they did not make an offer, they said they were so busy it was impossible for them to get the order through within the time specified in the notice they had received. One firm from Stratford, who were anxious to introduce an admirable engine into the factories of Montreal and the Province of Quebec made a stretch to give it to us. We got the engine from Stratford simply because our own factories in the city of Montreal were so crowded with business that they could not possibly undertake to perform that small piece of work within the time required for our exhibition purposes. There is no merchant in the country who will not tell you to-day that he has the greatest possible difficulty in getting orders filled in almost any industry. Some of our factories in course of construction have been actually stopped that would otherwise have been going on; they have been retarded in their progress towards completion because of the difficulty of getting machinery from manufacturing establishments of that kind in different parts of the country. In view of these facts I think I may fairly say that the industries of the country are all most prosperous and busily employed now, and it is certainly admitted on all hands that they were not in that condition in 1877-78. Now is that due to the National Policy? Let me take only two examples. I take first the cotton industry, which is the special antipathy of hon. gentlemen opposite. In that industry there has undoubtedly been an enormous development during the last three years. The Hudon factory of Montreal is not referred to, I think, in the returns submitted to the hon. Minister of Finance, because it is not a new factory. It was in existence before that time, but it had two additions made to it since then, and if I am rightly informed another building very nearly as large as one of those additions, if not larger, is about going up immediately alongside of it. The Hudon factory has been trebled in capacity, and new cotton mills have sprung up in all parts of the country. We have the Stormont mill, the Hamilton mill, the Coaticook and Stratford mills, all of them in operation before the 30th of June last—new mills started as a direct result of the National Policy. Then we have in addition to that, a large number of new mills which were in progress at that time, which are approaching completion, and some of which, I believe, will be very soon in operation. I was glad to see, only the day before yesterday, that a new establishment near Montreal—the Merchants Manufacturing Co.—for the purpose of turning out white cottons, had been put in motion, and operations have commenced, and they are now turning out cotton for the Canadian market. And yet we find that in spite of the old factories and their enlargement and the building of new factories, we cannot meet the demand; that the imports of all classes of cotton goods actually increased from

1878 to 1881 by 66½ per cent. The hon. member for South Brant would say, by that process of reasoning which he adopts in this House, and which reminds one very much of the process by which a gentleman undertook to prove that fish-pie was better than heaven—he said fish-pie was better than nothing, nothing is better than heaven, therefore fish-pie was better than heaven. But, Sir, this large importation of cotton is simply an evidence of the increasing purchasing power, and of the increasing wealth of the people of this country. It shows that our people are to-day so very much wealthier and more comfortable, in so much better circumstances, that they are able, in spite of this enlarged out-put of goods in their own factories, to increase their importations from abroad by this 66½ per cent. But when we analyse the importations, we find that of the two classes of bleached and unbleached cotton goods that are going out of our own factories, there has been a decrease in the importations of 27½ per cent. What is the fair inference from that? It is that the National Policy has, by the establishment of these factories, been able to supply that larger want of our people, and has thus added to the prosperity and wealth of the country. Look at the further fact that, in 1878, we imported of raw cotton 7,243,413 lbs. and, in 1881, 16,018,721 lbs., very nearly 9,000,000 lbs. of cotton manufactured in this country more than was manufactured in 1878, and I believe more than we would have been manufacturing to-day of the National Policy had not gone into effect. We are told, however, that the cotton manufacturers are all growing rich, and therefore this improvement in the condition of the cotton trade, instead of being a result for which we ought to be thankful, is a ground for dissatisfaction on the part of this country. What has been the experience of people who have invested their money in cotton in Canada? Why, in 1877 and 1878 everybody knows cotton stocks for which people paid 100 cents on the dollar in order to establish industries and to improve the country, could be had for from 10 up to 60 or 70 per cent. of their value. You could have got the stock of the Cornwall Cotton mills at 10 per cent., and people would have thanked you for taking it even at that price. We find to-day that cotton stocks have gone up, and those who bought at such low prices are now reaping their reward. Is it any harm that they should make a good thing out of their purchase? Has anybody been hurt?

Mr. ANGLIN. Yes, a great many.

Mr. WHITE. Will the hon. gentleman explain who?

Mr. ANGLIN. Everybody who has had to pay the additional price for the cotton manufactured.

Mr. WHITE. Well, Sir, I shall go on with the argument; I propose to come to that point in a minute or two. I say that these people have not increased the price of their cottons, as compared with the foreign article, by the imposition of the duty. What do hon. gentlemen opposite propose? A 17½ per cent. duty, even if the effect were to wipe out the cotton industry altogether. In fact they regard that industry as something that, if weeded out, would be a national blot effaced. Then what would they have instead? Foreign manufacturers, cotton lords, cotton princes in New England and in Old England, instead of in Canada, sending their goods in here; and the consumer, because of the non-production of the article in Canada, actually paying the 17½ per cent., and the Canadian merchant's profit into the bargain. That is the way in which they propose to benefit the Canadian consumer. Hon. gentlemen opposite do not deny that there must be duty on those articles. They had a duty of 17½ per cent. themselves, when in power; and they tell us that that is the Tariff they are going back to; but they must admit that 17½ per cent. according to their principles, would be added to the price to the consumer, with the merchant's profits besides. I make the statement that, with manufactories in our midst, the price of the goods is