

the smallest ground of argument for that assertion other than this, that our Tariff imposed burdens on the people without providing food and encouragement for them. I would like to know how he found food and encouragement for the bulk of the people when he taxed food, fuel, light and every other necessity. And when he talks of the people paying voluntarily into his treasury, I would like to know what option he gives or ever gave anyone of us in the matter of contributing to the revenue. As to the number of factories which the hon. gentleman alleges came into operation, all that he has the slightest ground to claim credit for are the 95 which he states, although he gave no details, had come into existence since March 1879, while as to the increase in the hands employed elsewhere, the majority of these are due wholly to the increased prosperity of the country arising from causes I have enumerated, over which the National Policy had no control whatever. And there is the explanation of the whole increase that has taken place. I might, were it worth my while to go into a discussion of that kind, point out to the hon. gentleman that although it may be true that in two or three isolated cases there has been an increase in value of city property, yet, that over a large portion of Western Canada, at any rate, there has been a positive decrease in the value of farming lands, and a very material decrease in the number of farmers inhabiting those counties. Sir, unhappily the mischief which the hon. gentleman and his colleagues have done is likely to remain. Those hon. gentlemen, in addition to inflicting other grievous burdens on the people seem to have busied themselves with all the industry that they possess to attempt to concentrate all the power of this country in their own hands. They are, from day to day, attempting to trample on our provincial rights. They are, from day to day, interfering with every liberty which we still continue to possess. They talk of Canada being a free country. Why, Sir, I tell them to-day that Canada is a country in which no man is free to buy or to sell, to eat or to drink, to travel or to stand still, without paying toll to some extortioner or another. That is the position to which they have reduced us. As to our provincial liberties they seem only to be occupied in devising means to curtail them at every point they can. Now, Sir, I do not mean to threaten, but most assuredly I do say—not perhaps to them, not perhaps to the men who support them, but to the people of Canada who sent them here and to whom they may shortly, perhaps very soon, have to appeal—I do say to them that if they persevere in this course, if they persevere in trampling on our provincial rights, they may find that Confederation will fall to pieces almost as soon as it was created; and if they persevere in particular in trampling on the plainest rights of the people of the North-West, then I warn them that so soon as that country begins to be filled up, so soon as settlement is crystalized there, so soon as the people begin to feel the pressure of the bonds they are imposing upon them, Canada will run very great risk of losing the North-West just as Great Britain lost the United States a century ago, and no men will be more directly responsible for it than the two hon. gentlemen I see immediately before me. Sir, these men may boast of their great majority here to-day, they may boast of their full Treasury, they may boast of their devoted supporters; but I can recollect some ten years ago, when these gentlemen were just as insolent, just as arrogant as they are to-day, when they had just as strong a majority behind them, just as full a Treasury, when they were prepared to be just as unscrupulous in maintaining their places as they were to-day; yet in twelve months after that time I saw them scattered and driven into deserved ignominy. The fate that befell them in 1873 may well befall them in 1883, and I see signs and tokens, not a few, that if they do not take care, and if they do not mend their ways, that fate will assuredly befall them

again; and say that it will be a very fortunate day for this country when we will be able to put a stop to all the vexatious legislation with which they have burdened and harassed the country.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

STAMP DUTY.

Sir JOHN MACDONALD. I wish to make a statement which I think of such importance that I think it ought to go to the papers to-night. My hon. friend who sits near me has given notice for doing away with the stamp duty. That is a statutory enactment, and until the Act is itself repealed stamps must still be affixed on promissory notes and bills of exchange in order to make them legal. The fact that it is the intention of the Government to take off the duty does not prevent the legal necessity of still affixing stamps until the repeal of the Stamp Act.

House adjourned at 12:20 a.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

MONDAY, 27th February, 1882.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following Bills were severally introduced and read the first time:—

Bill (No. 47) to extend and amend the Acts relating to the Canada Landed Credit Company. —(Mr. Beaty.)

Bill (No. 48) respecting the Niagara Grand Island Bridge Company.—(Mr. Arkell.)

Bill (No. 49) to amend the Act intituled: "An Act relating to interest on moneys secured by mortgage of real estate.—(Mr. Orton.)

Bill (No. 50) to enable any person charged with an indictable offence, to be admitted to give evidence on his behalf.—(Mr. McCarthy.)

Bill (No. 51) to incorporate the Synod of the Diocese of Saskatchewan; and for other purposes connected therewith.—(Mr. Mills.)

FREE TRANSMISSION OF NEWSPAPERS.

Mr. McCUAIG moved for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the free transmission by mail of newspapers within the county in which the same are published.

Mr. KILLAM asked the Government to explain its policy on this question. He raised the point of order that this was a measure affecting public revenue, which a private member could not introduce.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said that, from the title of the Bill, it was one which should commence by resolution.

Motion withdrawn.

EVIDENCE IN CASES OF INDICTABLE OFFENCES.

Mr. McCARTHY, in introducing Bill (No. 50), to enable any person charged with an indictable offence to be admitted to give evidence on his own behalf, said: This Bill contains three short clauses, and is taken from the criminal code recently prepared in England by a Commission which the present Justice Stephens is the chief. The Bill provides that any person charged with an indictable offence may give evidence on his own behalf, but the limits of cross-