

position of parties to-day with the position of parties then; to pretend to compare the present state of the country with the state of the country in 1878. What we tell them is this: Before you can charge us with inconsistency, before you can say, bring prosperity to this industry or to that, you must show that the proprietors and the working classes interested in these industries, that all the mechanical, all the industrial classes of the Dominion, are crying aloud for help, as they did then; but you cannot prove that, because no such proof exists. The people of Canada to-day are enjoying a degree of prosperity which is far beyond that of almost any people in the world. If you compare the condition of our people to-day with the condition of the people of the United States or England, you will find that the National Policy has proved, not only a friend to this country in her days of sunshine but also the best friend she ever had in the time when the clouds appeared upon her commercial horizon. I believe I am but expressing the opinions entertained by the majority of the people of Canada when I say that the first thing that would weaken the confidence which the people now have in the First Minister would be the first indication on his part to depart from the principle of that policy. I believe we should adhere to this policy until the industries of this country are strong and firm enough to let down a bar, when we can do so to our advantage and the advantage of our people. Reference has been made by previous speakers to the remark made by the hon. member for King's, N.B. (Mr. Foster), and I wish to allude to that particularly, because it is in keeping with the subject upon which I am now speaking. It shows how very careless these gentlemen are in making their statements. This hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster), in the very eloquent address he delivered to this House a few days ago, referred to the prosperity of the country. He was interrupted by some hon. gentlemen opposite, who referred to the fact that some men of the Conservative party, authorised to speak for that party, had declared that under the fostering influence of the National Policy hamlets would grow into villages, villages into towns, and towns into cities. Well, as fate would have it against these hon. gentlemen, in their organ of Saturday last, the *Globe*, just as if that organ never paid any attention to these hon. gentlemen at all, there appears a leading editorial under the heading of the extension of Ontario. I will only read from this editorial a few statements, but they will be quite sufficient to show not only the falsity of everything that has been said, not only against the industries of the Province of Ontario, but also the truth of what has been advanced on this side, with reference to increase in population and prosperity. The *Globe* said:

"But let us look at the growth and expansion of Ontario in 1872—the first year of Liberal Administration—there were 406 townships and 121 village, town and city municipalities in the Province. In 1884 these numbers increased to 451 townships and 205 village, town and city municipalities. In 1872 the total population, according to the municipal census, was 1,425,000; in 1884 it was 1,752,000. In 1872 the rural population was 1,050,000, and the urban 375,000; in 1884 the rural was 1,117,000 and the urban, 635,000. With such growth, what man in the possession of the five senses, will affirm that public expenditure should have remained a fixed quantity? It is not simply that some of the older counties have been making progress—that new townships have been organised, that hamlets have grown into villages, villages into towns, and towns into cities."

The hon. gentleman for King's, N. B., has his revenge. We all remember how he was taunted by hon. gentlemen across the floor, that such a thing would never be; that it was simply absurd; that it was a prophecy that would never be fulfilled. Speaking of prophecies, I wonder if any of the prophecies hon. gentlemen opposite made, prior to and immediately after 1878, have been fulfilled. I wonder if these hon. gentlemen, travelling over the hills of their memory, ever find that their prophecies at that time have proved most miserable failures. After the adoption of this policy we all remember

we were told that the grinding monopolies which were created under this tariff would be most oppressive. Well, Sir, it is most remarkable that during the present Session of this Parliament we find hon. gentlemen assuming the role of sympathisers with these capitalists. We find there is no stronger position they have taken this year, than the charge against this Government, that they, by their introduction of this policy, have induced men to put capital into concerns that have not paid, and that these capitalists, these bloated monopolists, are now the objects of their special attention. In the one breath it is the poor man; in the other it is the bloated monopolist. Why, do not these gentlemen know that the result of all this capital being put into these industries, which if you will, in some instances has to some extent failed, is that the commodities produced by these factories have become cheaper, and that the poor man has been benefited by that. In no sense have the working classes been injured by the National Policy, viewed from any light in which you choose to view it. I wish simply to make a reference to another matter, in reference to which a good deal has been said. I have here a short table, giving a comparison of the sixteen years of our confederated life, and a corresponding period in the life of the United States:

PUBLIC DEBT—COMPARATIVE TAXATION.

CUSTOMS, STAMPS, EXCISE.

Year.	Canada.	United States.
1868.....	\$11,700,681	\$351,713,348
1869.....	11,125,673	336,596,828
1870.....	13,087,882	376,749,842
1871.....	16,320,368	346,457,849
1872.....	17,715,552	344,390,052
1873.....	17,616,554	299,004,479
1874.....	10,129,186	263,167,032
1875.....	20,664,878	265,100,137
1876.....	18,614,415	262,415,690
1877.....	17,697,924	247,423,527
1878.....	17,841,938	239,102,883
1879.....	18,476,613	246,313,903
1880.....	18,479,576	307,324,268
1881.....	23,942,138	329,571,245
1882.....	27,549,046	363,132,299
1883.....	29,269,698	355,796,216
Totals.....	\$300,219,021	\$4,934,259,597

Taking the population at the middle period we have for the United States a population of 45,700,000, and for Canada 3,900,000. This gives the average amount of taxation per head for the sixteen years at \$110 for the people of the United States, \$77 per head during the period of sixteen years for Canada. If we had been subjected during this period to the same taxation as the people of the United States we would have paid into the Treasury the sum of \$430,000,000 instead of \$300,000,000. I have not included the State taxation. There is one thing in the remarks of hon. gentlemen opposite which must have appeared strange to those on this side of the House, that from the very commencement of their criticisms upon the statement of the Finance Minister, up to the present moment, they have not ventured to state, in any one particular, where they would alter this policy if they were so fortunate as to secure the Treasury branches. They dare not do it, because, when you go out into the constituencies and find hon. gentlemen seeking the suffrages of the people you do not find them coming out as flat-footed against the National Policy there as they do in this House. My experience in the election of 1882 was that an opponent in canvassing, the canvasser would get hold of a voter, one of their own men, and would be told by the voter: "I am in favor of this National Policy;" and then the gentleman who was canvassing would say: "Come here and let us have a talk; I am in favor of that, too; but if our friends get into power they are not going to change that." That is what I had to meet in my constituency, among other forcible arguments used to