

for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) had drawn a fearfully dark picture of the condition of business in the United States; but he did not say that he found the depression in Canada so great, and prices so low that he had transferred his large lumber business to Michigan and was there operating; he had said he could make money there, but not in Canada. This hon. gentleman was as inconsistent as the member for Iberville, who, last year, moved for Protection, and this year condemned it. The ex-Finance Minister and hon. member for South Brant (Mr. Paterson) had asked where was the change for the better in wages, stocks and other things since 17th September last? The member for South Brant, by his manner, reminded him (Mr. Rochester) of the action of a locomotive which he had seen trying to force its way through a snow-bank—snorting and plunging into the drift with great noise and violence. He understood that generals, in entering battle, cast about to see how, in case of need, they could retreat safely. Well, his hon. friend, as soon as he got aground, read from lists of the ayes and noes, for the past two or three Sessions, until he recuperated himself in the same manner as the man who was shovelling snow in front of the locomotive. He could not help thinking the hon. gentleman was like that locomotive, stuck hard in the snow drift, and that while he was reading the ayes and noes for the benefit of the House, he was recuperating for another dash. The hon. member for South Huron (Mr. Cameron), in his speech, put him (Mr. Rochester) in mind of an incident which occurred to him, some years ago, when he was up the river examining a timber limit. He was on snow shoes, and had a very high hill to ascend, and he found it fearfully difficult work ascending that hill. His hon. friend appeared to be very much in the same condition, when he tried to make a speech against the tariff, for it was evident that the hon. gentleman was speaking against the convictions of his own conscience. The hon. leader of the Opposition, and the hon. ex-Finance Minister, had admitted that they did not believe the present administration would ever bring down a Protective policy. But he had to congratulate these hon.

gentlemen, and the country might congratulate themselves, that men of ability, men who were capable of grappling with the questions of the day, men who were capable of remodelling the tariff and putting it into a shape that would benefit the country, had been returned to power; and the people might congratulate themselves that they would derive a large amount of benefit from the revision of the tariff. But, there was one thing, he thought, the hon. gentleman had missed, and he would draw the attention of the hon. gentleman to it, as he thought it was a matter of vital importance to the country. The present tariff before the House gave protection to the agriculturist and to the manufacturer, but there was nothing said about the mercantile community. He proposed, although it was not a pleasant thing to do, to perform a duty which devolved upon him—owing to the fact of there being vipers in the Dominion of Canada that had been for a number of years, and were now, preying on the vitals of the commercial community of the Dominion. The men he alluded to were a bane and a curse to this country to-day. He referred to the commercial agencies of New York and Boston that operated in the Dominion of Canada. He proposed to bring before the House a petition on the subject, signed by the principle merchants in different parts of the Dominion, asking the Government for protection against these vipers. He believed two-thirds of the bankruptcies of the country were brought about by these blackmailers. These men would rate a man according to what he paid them. All a man had to do if he wanted to start business, was to go to one of the reporters of these mercantile agencies, and if he could give \$50, \$80 or \$100 for his book, he would get a rating accordingly. He would be prepared to lay before a Committee of this House, and he hoped the House would grant him a Committee, documents which would show that one concern alone paid these reporters, in a very short time, the sum of \$800 for their rating, which was \$500,000, and a few weeks afterwards they were in bankruptcy. He could also show that, in the four months of February, March, April and May of last year, men who were rated at from \$2,000