

their policy to create such a prosperity that they will not have to go about with a lantern to find it.

Mr. WHITE (Hastings). Take a lantern to Lennox.

Mr. GILLMOR. You had better take some light into your own noddle. I will read another extract from the hon. member for Cardwell (Mr. White) where he says:

"Now, Sir, times have been less active, perhaps—that would be the better way to put it—less active recently than in 1882 and 1883, and there are reasons for it altogether apart from the question of the Government's policy, or any policy that might be adopted. We had first a large withdrawal of capital from legitimate enterprises to put into speculative enterprises in the North-West. In Toronto, for instance, when the North-West Land Company, which had bought a large amount of land from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, opened their books, I am told there was almost a riot in the effort to get into the room to subscribe for the stock of that company, so valuable was it supposed to be. People were anxious to go into all these new enterprises. The tendency of the age, I am sorry to say, is a gambling tendency, in commercial as well as in other matters."

He might have added politics.

"There is an eager disposition to make fortunes rapidly. People may sit down and play draw-poker—that is an innocent game, for draw-poker, in its practical sense, is to play for quarters; and the people who play draw-poker for quarters would object to being regarded as gamblers. We know that there was an idea that in the North-West there was a remarkable opportunity for making rapid fortunes, and people took money from their ordinary legitimate business and put it into North-West enterprises and lost it, to the great injury of the credit and business of the country at large."

Now what a humiliating position. "Less active," "a little depressed," the hon. gentleman says: it never was so bad in England for twenty-five years; commercial travellers tell him so; everybody knows it; there never was such distress there for a quarter of a century; times were horrid in the United States, but here in Canada they are less active. Now there is where the skill of my hon. friend comes in—just a little less active here. Oh! no depression here, but it is not quite as good as it used to be. It is not quite so good as we could desire, but it would have been fully as good if it had not been for these terrible Grits, if it had not been for the opposition to the National Policy. Well, now, with regard to the evils. I do not know anything about draw-poker; I never played the game; but I agree with my hon. friend that it is not a very serious matter. It is not half as bad, even if everybody was playing draw-poker, from British Columbia to Halifax, as the National Policy is. Now, about this boom. I wish I had the ability just to describe this boom. What brought about this boom? These gentlemen are responsible for all these things, so far as that is concerned. They lauded the North-West to the skies. They told the people: There is a chance there for great fortunes. They wanted their predictions to be fulfilled, and they encouraged the people to go there. They started the lottery, and told them there were great prizes to be drawn. Only invest your money, said they, and become rich. The people took the tickets in this lottery and invested their money, but the hon. gentleman never cautioned them. He heard there was a great rush in Toronto to invest in lands in the North-West. Did he go up there, in the kindness of his heart, for fear they would lose money, and did he crowd in and raise his voice, and tell them not to invest in the North-West, not to invest in Winnipeg; that the prospects were illusory, and that the result would be bad for them? He says it now—he is very wise, after the thing has happened, and he wants to shirk the responsibility of having encouraged that speculation. I charge the loss upon them. They encouraged it. And the Finance Minister himself—what more could he say? He said no more than the rest. He told the people all over the land: Now is your time, boys. Seven years of plenty, seven years of prosperity before you. Start out now, and make your fortunes. About the end of the seventh year I would advise to take in sail. And here is a gentleman making this able speech and throwing the responsibility off on to other people. From week to week, and from

month into month, did not our ablest men on this side of the House raise a warning? Did they fail for a moment to caution hon. members of the mischief that would result? But I never heard one of them detract from the country. However, I am satisfied the country was lauded very much above what it deserved. I am satisfied, if the truth was known, that there are not 150,000 persons in the North-West, including Manitoba. They told the people in their speeches there was nothing but sunshine up there; that it was a paradise. Now, the settlers have been disappointed. You have been taking the people's money to bring them here, and pay the expenses of many of them, and they have gone into the neighboring Republic. I charge the responsibility upon the hon. gentlemen opposite, and the men who have lost their money have a right to charge them with having encouraged this gambling speculation, with having established this lottery; and when the drawing has taken place the prizes are not there, and the country is suffering for it, and is depressed in consequence. Many have taken tickets and have lost their all, and have cursed the National Policy.

Mr. IVES. Still they vote all right.

Mr. GILLMOR. Yes they do; and that astonishes me more than anything else. I have no more extracts to read from the hon. member's speech; but I really am not joking when I say that I think he is one of the ablest men in this Parliament, and he makes excellent speeches; but I was really amused when I saw the laudations of that speech in his own paper. I was a little amused, and it brought to my mind a little circumstance which happened down near the border. There was a Sister White, who was a member of the church, and very egotistical and conceited, but still she was an able speaker and very attentive at prayer meeting. She was at prayer meeting one night, and on the way home called at Brother Jones'. She said she was sorry he had not been at the meeting; that Sister Cartwright had been at the meeting and she was a very good speaker, very able and very orthodox; but some way or other she was so harsh in her expressions, she had had so much vinegar about her, that no one could enjoy religion when she spoke. She also told Brother Jones that Sister Paterson was there; that she had a good voice and was a good speaker; but she was at the other extreme—she had so much sugar about her that there was a reaction the other way. Then there was Sister Charlton, a good speaker, perhaps the best of all; but she was a new convert and people have not much confidence in them. And, therefore, she failed to get up a good feeling. And right here comes the simile. Sister White said to Brother Jones: I wish you had been there to hear me. When I addressed myself to the sinners I made them open their eyes; I made them feel they were right on the verge of destruction; but when I turned to the saints and described the future for them, they shouted, Glory, Hallelujah. Indeed, Brother Jones, I tell you, I spoke most beautifully. I do not vouch for the names in this story, for I have forgotten them; I vouch simply for the circumstance and the occasion. The evils of this protective policy are coming back sooner than I expected. I never expected to see the National Policy succeed. But fortune favored the Government for a time; but retribution is coming on them now; they have shown it all through this discussion, in their countenances and in their speeches, and no one can fail to understand that they were being punished for their folly. I feel like saying to them: Bear in mind, gentlemen, that you have had a good deal of prosperity, many years of rejoicing, but remember the days of darkness, for they will be many; you are getting whipped now with the lash, but before long you will be chastised with scorpions. My prophecies will prove more true than yours, unless