

all, especially the more youthful workers. The important subjects of ventilation, of precautionary measures against the spread of infectious diseases, the establishment of fire escapes in large establishments, and the regulation of the hours of labor among minors, will, it is to be hoped, be considered in the proposed legislation. The second report of the Civil Service Commission will be looked for with interest. The proposed legislation will, I trust, promote the increased efficiency of the Civil Service of the country by adopting correct standards of qualification and providing for deserved promotion. By the expression correct standards of qualification I would not be misunderstood. A liberal education is not the only consideration, a due regard should be had to all moral qualities, to energy, activity, adaptability of temperament, and also to physical strength and vigor. I will not refer at length to the splendid evidence of the prosperity of the country in the magnificent surplus of over \$4,000,000 of the last financial year, now for the first time officially announced in His Excellency's Address, and the further announcement that this handsome sum has been applied to the extent of \$1,250,000, to the reduction of the public debt, and the balance to the prevention of the increase of the public debt, by being applied to payment for public works chargeable to capital account. The effect of this handsome exhibit must be to still further improve our financial credit, already so high in the money market of England that our securities stand second only to British consols. The Government have reason to take a just pride in the abundant evidences they are able to produce in proof of the success of their policy. The facts are innumerable and striking. I need only, for my purpose, refer to the development and flourishing condition of the industries in my own riding. There are parallel cases of progress and development in every section of the country, but in West Northumberland we find abundant testimony to the wisdom of the policy which the Government, with the approval of the people, has adopted. I find that since the introduction of the National Policy the proprietor of the Cobourg Car Works has increased his car shops, in buildings and machinery, to the extent of \$45,000; that he has increased the number of his employes by 224; that the wages he pays has run up from \$7,960 in 1878 to \$89,950 in 1881; and that the average advance in wages has been twenty per cent. I find also that to the business now branches have been added, including the building of mail, express and baggage cars, and that the manufacture of railway car-springs is to be commenced in about a month. The output of these works in 1878 was \$17,300, while in 1881 it ran up to \$620,000. Take, then, the Cobourg Woollen Mills. Large additions are being made to them with a view to doubling their productions. The hands have already been increased from eighty-eight in 1878 to 110 in 1881, and the wages paid have increased from \$1,250 in September, 1878 to \$2,092 in December, 1881, while the production has gone up from \$93,244 in the former year, to \$125,080 in the latter. Besides this there is a new mill, the Norval Mill, which has been started during the last twelvemonth. It employs thirty hands, and the wages average \$700 per month. The Cobourg Mat and Matting Works, which were closed during the depression, have been re-opened under the National Policy, and are doing a good business. At Grafton, the mill of Mr. Greenwood was nearly at a standstill during 1878, but in 1881 it received more orders than its proprietor could conveniently fill. Its output in 1878 was \$5,000, and, in 1881, \$12,000, and the men employed in it received higher wages than previously. The large increase in the industrial population of the country has greatly benefitted the home market for agricultural products of all kinds, and the consequent competition among buyers has contributed another element of improvement of demand and price. The employment of so large an amount of additional capital in producing goods formerly imported

Mr. GUILLET.

has increased the circulation of money, infused new life into every branch of trade, and increased the purchasing power of all classes. Thus the consumption of dutiable goods has increased and the revenues of the country largely augmented. If I may be allowed to indulge in a retrospective glance and look back to the Session of 1878, when the right hon. gentleman the leader of the Government—then the leader of the Opposition—proposed to Parliament those famous resolutions which heralded the National Policy, and consider the state of the country at that time, the wide-spread depression, the distressed industries, the increased and increasing number of bankruptcies, the scarcity of labor, the dearth of money, the timidity of capital, the alarming state of our finances, with large and yearly increasing deficits accruing, the prospect was indeed gloomy and discouraging. The Government of that day were appealed to upon every patriotic ground to change their fiscal policy. They were offered the aid and support of the Opposition in carrying out that policy. They refused. They were joined to their Free Trade idols, and the country was appealed to, and the people, by a vast majority, "let them alone." They rejected the policy, and the people rejected them. Mr. Speaker, the eventful day of the inauguration of the National Policy marked the commencement of a new epoch in our economic affairs. It gave a new inspiration of life and progress to our country. At once there was restored confidence, and soon the tide was turned. Our industries revived, our failing credit became re-established, the days of deficits were ended, and the days of surpluses restored on a grander scale than ever. All the good anticipated of the new policy has been realized; all the evils predicted of it have proved but phantoms in the minds of its opponents, and I can confidently assert that, from the time of its adoption until the present moment, there has not been manifested on the part of the propounders of this policy, or of the supporters of this policy, any weakening or holding back. They have been, and are, a unit for its maintenance in its integrity. Every assault upon it has been driven back, and it stands stronger to-day in the confidence and respect of the people of the Dominion than ever before. Is it not time, Mr. Speaker, that this conflict should cease? Defeated on so many fields where they have offered battle, why should its opponents persist in the useless slaughter? Why prolong the fruitless struggle? Why continue to oppose so obstinately the will of the people? The Opposition threw down the gauntlet of Free Trade in the campaign of 1878. For long months before and during the contest they appealed to the people against it, through the press and from the platform, with the prestige and patronage of power and position in the Dominion to help them. They appealed to the deliberate and enlightened judgment of a free people. The verdict was given in unmistakable terms, yet again and again have they appealed to the people as constituency after constituency has been opened, and in almost every case the people have reiterated their approval of, and confidence in, this wise and beneficent policy. Would it not, Mr. Speaker, well become those who boast so loudly of their respect for the voice of the people, those who profess to believe in and obey the authority and will of the people when expressed in a constitutional way, would it not well become our Reform friends who oppose this policy to cease to object to and obstruct the manifest will of the people. I appeal respectfully to these gentlemen in Opposition to abandon the hopeless strife. It will give them elevation of character and purpose in the estimation of the country, and will win them more friends than they can possibly win by the unpatriotic course they are now pursuing. In making this appeal I but re-echo the sentiments of many Independent Reformers, and of the more liberal and independent journals of the Reform party. I can well understand that hon.