

We have long ago given up expecting consistency from any Conservative as to this National Policy. It is a disgraceful thing that the hard times still hang on, when Sir John Macdonald expressly promised that they should be banished as soon as the Conservatives gained a majority."

On the 21st October they found this precious *morceau* :

"It is too bad that the leaders should be squabbling while the people are starving, capital idle, manufactures perishing, and workmen on half time."

Again on the 28th :

"In many parts of Canada the crop is, thus far, not so good as was expected. The weather was against its being well harvested. In many cases it is damp and sprung. The price is low and falling. In the face of such things, is this a time to palter and delay?"

On the 1st November, they read :

"Our farmers, with a falling market, and no prospect of immediate revival, have time to meditate over the vanity of human wishes, and the unsubstantial character of National Policy promises."

They were further assured that the right hon. leader of the Government and his friends were trying to get rid of the National Policy :

"We must congratulate our Tory friends upon the multitude and ingenuity of their attempts to drop off the Protectionist platform, without exciting an unpleasant amount of attention from their dupes."

"The Finance Minister, when he attempts to frame his new tariff, will have a lively time of it."

"There are delays in forming a National Policy Government; there is an evident desire to delay the advent of the National Policy itself; excuses are being offered; time is demanded; there is a shuffling attempt to induce others than the half-fledged Administration to assume a share in the responsibility of incubating the National Policy. We can see no reason for delay; no need for excuses, if all is fair and honest; no justification for, but much to reprehend in, shuffling."

The Finance Minister was, at this time, endeavouring to repair his predecessor's shuffling, as to which there was no justification, but much to reprehend. It would be instructive to follow the *Globe* through brake and through brier, on its will-o'-the-wisp wanderings since the election. At one moment it assured them that we were to consume all we produced, and produce all we consumed; at another, we were to erect the Chinese wall along our borders; at

another, we were to make no change whatever. Its veracious correspondent in Ottawa, who had attained a first magnitude in the practice which made Mendez Pinto proverbial, reported that a general scale of thirty-five per cent. and upwards had been agreed upon between Mr. Tilley and those cormorant manufacturers who had made such bloated fortunes during the past five years. A few days afterwards, in the leading article of the paper, the truth of this wildly absurd, and maliciously false report was gravely assumed, and an argument was based upon it, intended, as it seemed, to create discontent in England against a loyal dependency, and in the United States against peaceful neighbours, who claimed simply the right to attend to their own business. The whole chorus yelled to the same tune, and they demanded, almost the day after the election, that the National Policy should be brought down. They said it required no ingenuity, that it could be brought down by any clerk in public offices; and they demanded that his hon. friend, before he was sworn, and before he had time to assume the duties of his office, should bring down his Budget. They all cried out that the Government and their supporters were insincere. Well, he thought the fact of the opposition made to the resolutions of his hon. friend showed, at least, that he had fulfilled his side of the bargain. He might say that every criticism that he had heard from the other side, had only tended, in his judgment, to strengthen the public confidence in the resolutions of his hon. friend. This showed that they were willing to take the responsibility of a policy which gentlemen in Opposition said they never intended to undertake. There had been a great deal said about the promises made by his hon. friend the leader of the Government, and he should not notice some of the criticisms, were it not that the late First Minister had condescended, in his last address to the House upon this matter, to allude to the poor, the played-out, exploded canard circulated in New Brunswick before the election, that Sir John promised a 35 per cent. tariff. It was first stated that he said so at Parkhill, in North Middlesex,