

of this, let us notice a fact not generally known, that settlement is under the Mowat Government making progress in these at a rate comparing favourably with Manitoba. From 1871 to 1881 Manitoba's population had only risen from twelve thousand to forty-seven thousand, while our Muskoka alone had risen from seven thousand to twenty-seven thousand, and had received a new settler for every 159 acres, while the other had only received one for every 230. The reason we compete so successfully is that our Government deal directly with the settler; the land in Manitoba has, unwisely, been sold to companies and speculators.

In addition to these our Local Government have planned and are carrying out several important measures I think more of than all, and which I will speak of presently.

Now, let us say a word concerning the Opposition. Could we entrust these important affairs to their management? I regret to say they do not appear to be sufficiently capable in any respect. While incessantly carping at Government concerning slight matters of detail, they have never laid down any distinct outline of what they themselves would do, and seem, in fact, to make it their chief claim for Ontario support that they call themselves National Policy men. No statement was ever more ridiculous. Being so or not makes no difference in an assemblage which has nothing to do with tariffs. But let me expose this little bit of hypocrisy. When a few individuals, years before 1878, commenced and agitated the National Policy plan—when for years they were sending numbers of articles through Canada on this question, they had no help from these gentlemen. If these gentlemen were Protectionists—if they were National Policy men—where are their speeches? where are their articles of that day? There are none. They took up the cry for election purposes, and now hope that, having been powerful at the Dominion elections, where it had meaning, it may perhaps be so in the local elections, where it has none.

A word further on the National Policy. I am a Protectionist, and always have been, for principle, not for party. I supported Sir John Macdonald last June on that ground, and because I considered it the most important question then at stake. I am utterly opposed to revenue tariffs in any shape or form, believing in home industries and in Canada for the Canadians. Sir John took that side. I supported the National Policy then for the good of the country, and I support Mr. Mowat now for the same reason. You must not suppose I am satisfied with the way that Policy is being carried out. It has done good—but the Dominion Cabinet have been five years at work, and have not helped the country one-fourth as much as