

The people of Canada have seventeen years' experience of the policy of the Conservative party, and I have no doubt that at the next election they will support it with greater enthusiasm than ever before. Let me point out to you, Mr. Speaker, some of the progress made by Canada under the National Policy, and I will do so by comparing the year 1881 with the year 1891. In the manufacture of textile fabrics and dress, including cotton and woollen goods, boots and shoes factories, tailors and clothiers, dressmakers, &c., in 1881, there were 10,163 establishments and 60,617 employes. In 1891, there were 17,650 establishments and 80,662 employes. In the industries connected with paper, including printing establishments, the increase in the ten years was 48 per cent in the establishments, and 53 per cent in the number of employes. In the manufacture of machines, tools and implements the increase in the ten years was nearly 30 per cent for employes and the same for establishments. The value of the machinery and tools in the industrial establishments of the Dominion in 1891 was \$80,803,265. The total number of industrial establishments in Canada in 1881 was 49,923, with 254,935 employes. In 1891, there were 75,765 establishments and 367,496 employes. In the years between 1875 and 1878, when hon. gentlemen opposite ruled the destinies of the country, thousands upon thousands of young men were unable to get employment at home, and were compelled to seek a livelihood upon a foreign soil and under a foreign flag. But, Sir, when the National Policy was adopted in 1878, manufactories and industrial establishments were started, and those young men, previously exiled from Canada were able to find remunerative occupation at home. Our country has great resources; as great as those of any country in the world. We have valuable timber lands, almost inexhaustible mineral resources, productive agricultural lands, and teeming fisheries. We have a fine class of people, good, honest, hard-working men, who love their country, and who are capable of developing it, and under our present protective system there cannot be a doubt that the energy of our people will cause Canada to progress. It must not be forgotten, however, that this Reform party has a record of its own—that its ability to govern this country has been tested fairly in the past, for it held the reins of power in the Dominion for a period of five years. They promised a millenium of prosperity when they obtained office in 1873, and you can all remember the result. Instead of prosperity, there was an era of disaster, distress and deficits such as was never known before or since in the history of Canada. It was no wonder that the people, when the opportunity arrived, swept them out of power, and it is no wonder they have kept them out ever since. Under the Conservative Government, the

protection of Canada will continue, and our people will continue to enjoy prosperity as they do now; for I see no chance of the Liberals getting into power so long as our Liberal-Conservative Government adhere to the policy now in force, that is, the policy of regulating our tariff to suit a young country like Canada. So long as they do that, I think they will be satisfactory to the people of this country, and when the next general elections come round, our friends of the Opposition will find that the policy of protection will be endorsed by the ballots of the people. I do not know what the manufacturers of this country will think; but I know that the manufacturers of the city of Hamilton are rather modest people, and, when the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) gets up here and declares that the manufacturers are plunderers who are taking money out of the pockets of the people, they will, of course, regard his remarks as applying not only to the manufacturers, but to the men they employ, the workingmen; and I think the manufacturers and the workingmen of this country will show their appreciation of the hon. gentleman's remarks when they cast their ballots at the next general elections.

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. Ryckman) took great credit to the National Policy for the starting of the Hamilton Rolling Mills, which he said had been standing idle up to 1878 on account of the trade policy of the Mackenzie Government. When half the truth is told, and only half the truth, it is very misleading; and the hon. gentleman ought to have told this House and the people of the city from which he comes, the real reason why the Hamilton Rolling Mills were lying idle. Those mills were owned by the Great Western Railway Company, and steel rails became so cheap that the company were obliged to abandon the rolling mills which they had used for years for re-rolling the old iron rails. When iron rails were set aside, and steel rails were introduced, the Great Western Company had no further use for the rolling mills. But the hon. gentleman forgot to tell the House that after the National Policy came into operation, in the first year of the existence of the Hamilton Rolling Mills Company under it, they paid a dividend of 75 per cent on their capital; and to-day the same company enjoy a protection of from 30 to 75 per cent—I will not imitate the Minister of Trade and Commerce when he talks of three thousand per cent, which is a kind of calculation which no member of this House understands except himself. My hon. friend from Hamilton also spoke of the foundries in that city running full blast. I would like to tell him and this House that the Hamilton foundries were standing idle for months during the winter; but, because they thought that a general election was