

ported, and that, therefore, the people would be obliged to pay them. But the object of the tariff, if he understood it, was that a great portion of the goods on which the high duties were to be placed should be manufactured here, and their price kept in the country. The hon. member for South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie) said, in reference to the stove business, that there was a combination to raise prices since the tariff came into force. He (Mr. Kilvert) had the best authority for denying that statement, and for asserting that stoves were cheaper to-day than five years ago, there being, in addition, 50 per cent. more work on them. In reference to the other item, carriages, referred to by that hon. gentleman, he said that there would not be any additional market for them in consequence of the high duty. The imports for 1878 showed that from the United States they brought in carriages to the value of \$85,304, and from England \$2,130. Now, if either of the amounts thus represented were made in this country, it would give much more employment to the people in this trade. It was not necessary for him to discuss the question of the increase of price to the consumer. They all knew—and he thought it had been established by the hon. member for Centre Huron (Mr. Cartwright) in his speech in reply to the Finance Minister—that one effect of the tariff would be to encourage many manufacturers to go into business, when prices would become so low that many would be ruined. That, he (Mr. Kilvert) thought, was a conclusive answer to the hon. member for South Wellington. Another objection made to this tariff was its immorality—that it was obtained through the bribery of individuals, classes, sections, and Provinces, into accepting that policy. He denied that statement. True, appeals were made to all classes of the community from the national standpoint, and the response was patriotic and general. He thought that it was the gentlemen on the Opposition benches who were guilty of endeavouring to array class against class in reference to this question. They had particularly relied upon and appealed to one class, the farmers, for their support; they pleaded that they were Free-traders, and that, from the position they held, they could

be useful to the farmers. The late Government, believing that, as there was a majority of agricultural constituencies the majority would go in favour of Free-trade, adopted that course, relying upon that interest for support. With regard to another objection to the tariff, the people of this country were said to be ignorant in adopting it. He did not think that any greater insult could have been offered to the people than that found in the remarks of the member for Centre Huron, considering the general diffusion of education. He (Mr. Kilvert) ventured to say that, in future, if the same means were followed by hon. gentlemen opposite as in the past, it would be a long time before the Reform party would occupy the Treasury benches. He desired now to state briefly a few of his reasons for approving of the National Policy. They all knew that, for several years, this country had suffered very seriously from the slaughtering of goods in various industries in vogue. He would refer to an extract from a report of a Select Committee of the House in 1874, in order to show that such slaughtering practice did exist in this country:—

“ Your Committee, upon the evidence thus obtained, have arrived at the following conclusions:—

“ 1st. It appears that the competition with the United States, in those classes of manufacture which come under the influence of such competition, is seriously complained of, on the ground that it is an unequal competition fostered by the different fiscal systems of the two countries.

“ The American manufacturers, having the exclusive control of their own market, find it convenient to relieve themselves of their surplus products in Canada, in many instances at prices less than the cost of production, thus making of Canada a slaughter market.

“ It has been established before your Committee that Canadian manufacturers have seriously suffered from this cause, and that the effect of it must be, in some cases at least, to so hamper the Canadian industry as to seriously embarrass it, while the country itself would be injured by the withdrawal from it of large numbers of operatives who would be compelled to seek work in the United States.

“ This disturbing element in the manufacturing industry of the Dominion arising out of our geographical position, and out of the trade policy of our neighbours, should induce even those who may regard Free-trade as a correct principle, in the abstract, to recognise the necessity for a modification of that principle as a measure of self-protection, and your Committee respectfully recommend the enact-