

found better and greater questions upon which to exercise their ability. As a consequence of this, our politics often descended to personal issues and to unworthy attacks on the characters of public men, for which neither of the great parties is entirely blameless.

The New Party Issues.

But we have at last a great question, an economical question, a question upon the solution of which will largely depend the future of the Dominion. It is not, I believe, as was stated by the Hon. the Minister of the Interior, in one of those pic-nic speeches, of which we have a voluminous record, a contest between knowledge and ignorance; it is not a contest between a generous spirit and selfishness; it is not, as had been stated by the Hon. the Premier, a question in which the views of one party savoured of barbarism and the other of a barbarous age, but it is a question upon either side of which the best minds of all civilised countries have been, for very many years, engaged. It is a question on which a certain class of thinkers, able, intelligent, acute, thoughtful men, I admit them to be, hold to certain theories and views which they believe are applicable to all conditions of affairs, in which I will freely admit they are fortified by the prestige of the great manufacturing and commercial success of England, since she started upon the policy which they so loudly applaud. But on the other hand, it must be remembered that while the *doctrinaires* are so strengthened by that illustrious example, they are opposed by the statesmanship of every country with the exception of England—that the leading public and influential men who controlled the fortunes of France, Germany, Russia, the United States, and every other civilized country, so far from having accepted the views of those *doctrinaires*, have acted upon a different policy, upon the policy which was recognized as that of the Opposition in this House to-day, the policy which is affirmed by the amendment proposed by the right Hon. Member for Kingston.

Sir John Macdonald's Amendment.

It is not true that the proposition before the House is, as it has been termed by some one, a vague, unmeaning proposition. I maintain that this amendment is a clear, bold, distinct and intelligible declaration of a positive policy, and that those who support the views therein expressed do so maintain them as the result of calm and settled conviction; that they are not put forward for *ad captandum* purposes, or for the purpose of getting votes. They have been iterated and reiterated for years in this House, by thoughtful and patriotic men, whose views are entitled to as much weight as any in this country. The amendment starts with the assumption that the country needs a national policy. Now, it is not denied by either party that a customs tariff, as a mode of raising revenue, is the favourite one with free traders and protectionists alike; or that, largely on the way in which a tariff is framed, depends the existence and the success of the industries to which the

tariff applies. build up industry and the proper effects, would country.

The Rail

The amendment is concise. It is impossible to adjust its interests to each nation to its peculiar needs. Every custom of which we consider all the energies and mines, as much in our lumber. with reference to the nation; and the aptitude of the largest degree, give them an opportunity to do business to which we do not believe that it is not things, that Government machine, which mate principle contrary, that on any ultimate be specially applied.

A True

We believe in a definite policy upon a correct estimate of the capabilities of the nation of their country affirmed in this House, by many yet the House of honorable friends then a Protectionist and best that h