

labouring man and lumberman, who, with the farmers, produced most of the wealth of the country, had also been entirely ignored. Depression occasionally afflicted all nations, and the United States had been more severely visited than Canada. They had had many years of prosperity, during which hon. gentlemen opposite should have husbanded the resources of the country, and have been less reckless in undertaking costly works of great magnitude; the public debt would not then have been increased so much nor the present troubles felt so keenly. They had prosperous times during and after the American war. All our surplus stock and produce was taken at good prices, labour was in great demand, followed by a railroad mania, which was encouraged by the Government. Many millions were thus spent, causing the people to imagine they were exceedingly wealthy, when their means largely consisted of borrowed money—in imaginary wealth. In Ontario alone about \$20,000,000 was expended on new railways, the promoters obtaining bonuses and floating bonds extensively. The whole system of the country was rotten to the core. The country suffered from a partial failure of crops two or three seasons in succession, and the natural reaction took place. The Dominion and Provincial Governments having to meet the payment of interest on their borrowed loans, a reaction took place. The public feeling was anxious for a change, thousands foolishly entertaining the idea that the Government could grant them some measure of relief. To add to our misfortunes, the wholesale merchants imported enormous quantities of goods for years, amounting in four or five years to over \$100,000,000 worth more than the legitimate wants of the country required. Irresponsible persons were allowed unlimited credit; merchants' agents were pushing sales all over the country; thousands of farmer's sons left the farm and entered into business without experience, the result being financial failure. Bankruptcy goods were sold by the official assignee at sacrifice prices, and others trying to carry on a legitimate business were dragged down, hundreds failing in consequence. At the elections last fall—in regard to which he never knew the people to be more deceived—min-

isters had been accused of deceiving the electors; at all events, different versions of the Protective policy were given in different parts of the country. The character of the speeches made depended very materially upon the geographical positions of the localities visited. It was wrong to accuse the late Government of a Free-trade policy; their tariff was 17½ per cent. for revenue, which gave enough protection and encouragement to any legitimate business. The manufacturers had come to Ottawa, however, from various parts of the Dominion, with selfish motives, and created a hue-and-cry about the slaughter of goods in Canada. Hon. gentlemen opposite complained that goods were manufactured in the United States 50 per cent. cheaper than could be here. Why should Canadians be deprived of obtaining them so much cheaper than the home manufactured articles? Were not cheap goods a benefit to those who purchased? With regard to the complaints of their market being glutted with American goods, he thought that much of the goods exhibited in one part of the country as American, came from some other part of the country where there was over-production. A large quantity of furniture, manufactured in Guelph, had been sold in Toronto as American, because it had a good name. He had no faith in the policy of the present Administration, nor had he any faith that it would work well or prove beneficial. Ministers evidently had no faith in it themselves, as they were making changes in the tariff continually. The hon. member for King's (Mr. Domville) had said that if it did not work well, not "he," but "we" would abandon it in a year. Some 30 or 40 changes had been already made since it was brought down. A deputation from Huron, representing the salt interests, were told they would be protected, but had discovered, after returning home, that 8c. a bushel did not suit their interests, they having expected that all foreign salt would be prohibited, and that they could supply our fishermen with 3,000,000, or 4,000,000 bushels which we now principally brought out in ballast and sold much cheaper than the Goderich salt could possibly be supplied. The deputation anticipated that the