

perity has no necessary connection with the National Policy. With respect to the changes that have been made in the Tariff, of course it is a good thing that any article which is largely consumed should be relieved from taxation, but I think the Government would have dealt more kindly by the classes in this country who are less able to bear taxation, if they had taken off the specific duties from the coarser qualities of cottons and woollens, which are used very largely by the poorer classes, and which pay a much heavier relative duty than cottons, woollens and cloths worn by the wealthier classes.

HON. MR. DEVER—I cannot allow the statement to go unchallenged that we were as prosperous in 1872 and 1873 as we are at present. I do not think we were as prosperous. I had some knowledge of business in those years and I have some knowledge of business now. I was in Ottawa and in other cities during those years and I can safely say that there is a different appearance in the streets of Ottawa to-day from what there was in 1872 and 1873. In those days almost every shutter was up and business was in a most deplorable state.

HON. MR. POWER—Not in 1872, it was later than that.

HON. MR. DEVER—At all events it was only a few years ago, and it is notorious that two thirds of the business places of this city were closed in consequence of the dullness of trade. I do not say that the whole of the Dominion is in a prosperous condition at present; there are some portions of the country that still have reason to complain, but the general prosperity of the country has improved vastly from what it was a few years ago. With reference to the change in the tobacco duties, I think it only applies to tobacco grown in Canada. I would rather see the reduction extend to imported leaf tobacco, because in my province and I think in Nova Scotia also, very little native grown tobacco is used. I must say that I feel pleased to see the reduction in the duties, and the improved condition of trade that permits it and am happy to give my support to this Bill.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—In intro-

HON. MR. POWER.

ducing this Bill the hon. gentleman passed over the additions to the taxation with a very slight notice. There is one important addition to the taxation that will be found to be a very ingenious and a very onerous one. It is one which falls with great force upon a large portion of the community. According to the statement we have heard from the Government side of the House, it is likely that a great many houses will be constructed in the North-West during the next year, by men who are comparatively poor, and with a great many depending upon them. It would, I think, be for the advantage of these persons, if they could obtain glass upon the cheapest possible terms; but just at this crisis, when many settlers are going into the North-West, the Government have thought proper to raise the tax upon glasses. I contend that it is a most injurious tax, whether paid by the capitalist or the peasant. In the case of large and handsome plates of glass, which are now being used in some buildings in course of erection in this city, the glass forms a very large portion of the front of such buildings; and the placing of this tax upon it forms a permanent charge upon the building, which must be paid either in the shape of increased rent, or larger prices for the goods which are sold by the tenants of those buildings. For these reasons, the tax upon glass is particularly injurious in a new country like this; and I can only infer that it is imposed in the interests of a few individuals in Canada, who make exorbitant profits out of it. But in the counties near the sea, we have been accustomed to buy glass wherever we might buy it cheapest, and therefore it is specially injurious to us; and instead of bringing the glass in our own ships, we shall be obliged to see it undergo a large amount of handling on the railways, and it will reach us, perhaps, in a considerably damaged condition. The hon. gentleman from Saint John (Mr. Dever) I think was a little obscure on the subject of dates. He said that in 1873, a great depression existed in this city; but I may mention that I made my first acquaintance with Ottawa in 1873, and I can say as a positive fact that there was then an active state of industry here. It was like a hive, and a sufficient number of houses could not be found to accommodate the people who were then arriving here. At the present time the saw mills