

whole national fabric have been leaving us to become the foundation stones of a foreign country, need we wonder that there is a depression in this country, and that the policy which has been inaugurated by hon. gentlemen opposite has been a complete failure in keeping our people at home. In fact, Sir, the lines of "Fidelis" addressed to the Old party, are particularly applicable here :

"Ye send our best and brightest forth, our nation's
hope and pride—
More precious to our country's weal than all her
wealth beside—
To be the strength of alien states, of empire not
our own.
And all to 'build the nation up' without its
corner-stone!"

Yes, Sir, the corner-stones of our national fabric are moving away from us. There is no expense so great as the education of the young men and women in this country. We give them an education in our colleges and universities to prepare them for the period of manhood and womanhood, and when they arrive at that period when their influence should be of vast importance to our country, they move to a foreign state to add to the dignity, power, wealth and moral character of a foreign power, instead of using their influence to advance their native country.

Mr. DAVIN. They were drawn away before.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Not in such numbers. They are drawn away more now; the moving power is stronger now. But, Sir, the National Policy has not only failed in this respect, but it also discriminates against the poor man in favour of the rich man. When I say that the National Policy discriminates against the poor man, I mean this: that the prime necessities of the people are the articles on which the Government has placed the highest tariff rates. But I know what arguments will meet me here. I know that my hon. friend from the far West, who is looking so intently at me, would suggest, if he spoke his mind, that these articles of prime necessity are manufactured in our country, and that, therefore, not a single dollar of duty is paid upon them by the consumer. I do not say that a single dollar of duty is paid on them; it would be better if duty were paid upon them, because it would go into the public treasury to meet the expenses of the country. Instead of that the amount goes into the pockets of the manufacturers in increased prices; but all the same it comes out of the pockets of the consumers. And, Sir, the greatest authority on finance whom the Conservative party ever had in this country, is one of my authorities for this statement. Sir A. T. Galt, than whom the Liberal-Conservative party never had an abler man sitting on the Treasury benches, stated that whenever a tariff was levied, it increased the price of every article upon which a duty was imposed, whether imported from abroad or manufactured in the country. I place on one side his authority, and on the other side I place that of the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), and I ask the country to choose between them.

Mr. DAVIN. I have got a letter from Sir Alexander Galt saying that the prices have been lower.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Now, let me give you a few specimens of tariff discrimination against

the poor man. If a poor man requires a few common pictures to put on the wall of his room, he has to pay 20 per cent. duty on them; but if my hon. friend from West Assiniboia wants to import from abroad a picture of high art, he gets that picture free of duty. If I want a cheap coat in which to go into the country to see my patients, I take Canadian tweed, on which I have to pay 45 per cent., but if my hon. friend, dressing as well and stylishly as he generally does, and as popular among the ladies as he generally is, chooses to put on better clothing than I can afford, and, consequently, buys broadcloth, he gets it at a duty of 25 per cent. I need a heavy overcoat because I have to drive out in inclement weather, and I get Canadian tweed, on which I have to pay 45 per cent.; but the hon. gentleman, who walks about the streets of the great city of Regina, buys a finer coat, on which he has to pay only 25 per cent. Now, Sir, he being a rich man and I a poor man, does not this prove that the tariff discriminates against the poor? Then, the labouring man who works on the farm, in the lumber woods, or on the public works of Canada, needs strong shirting, on which he has to pay 65 per cent., while my hon. friend gets the fancy shirting which he puts on during the summer at 24 per cent. My musical friends, if they cannot afford to buy grand pianos like the rich people, but who nevertheless are fond of music—because musical taste is not confined to the rich—they have to buy a cheap organ on which they pay from 50 to 70 per cent.; but if my hon. friend who is rich wants to buy a grand piano to adorn his parlour and to afford amusement to his daughters, he gets it at a duty of from 35 to 50 per cent. Now, he may be rich in daughters and rich in many things, but the tariff discriminates in his favour and against the poor man. The poor men who go into the lumber districts want heavy, grey shoddy blankets to keep them warm in the shanties; they have to pay upon them a duty of from 80 to 100 per cent.

Mr. DAVIN. They do nothing of the kind.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I beg pardon. Take one of these shoddy blankets which the retailer buys for a dollar, it weighs 8 pounds. The duty would be 10 cents for each pound in weight and 20 per cent. on its value. Now, 8 times 10 are 80, so that upon that blanket the poor man has to pay 80 cents along with 20 cents on the dollar, which amounts to 100 per cent. There it is proved to you. But if my hon. friend wants a fine, soft French blanket of great value but very little weight, for his delicate skin, he pays on it from 60 to 70 per cent., whereas the poor man who has to lie on a board in the wilderness covers himself with a shoddy blanket on which he has to pay 100 per cent. You cannot get over it, because it is the truth, and the man who gets over the truth has to do it in a dishonest way.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). He gets under the blanket.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Then, Sir, take earthenware. I am sure that the hon. gentleman does not sit down to a breakfast table on which there is common earthenware. I have no doubt he sits down to a table furnished with China cups and saucers and dishes, which he gets for 30 per cent.; but the poor man has to pay 35 per cent. upon his common crockery. I might go on almost *ad in-*