

that they objected to some clauses led me to the conclusion that, on the whole, though there might be some slight amendments to the Tariff necessary, we were accomplishing the objects we had in view. Sir, as the discussion proceeds on the different items—because we will have as free and as full a discussion as we had last year—we will be in a position to examine into the operation of the various clauses of the Tariff, and more intelligently than last year, because we have had the experience of some months of its working. I have known that where railways have been constructed there have been particular localities which, from exceptional causes, have been injured; and so I am prepared to hear that hon. gentlemen opposite have found some point with reference to the working of the Tariff that will be a parallel to such cases as I have referred to; but who on that account would abolish our railway system? I am satisfied, from my own observations and from what I know in the matter, that the result of the Tariff has been such that there will be no declaration of this House, or on the part of the country, in favour of a change in the general policy of the Government. Sir, we will no doubt have it said by the gentlemen of the Opposition that the increased cost of certain articles has been caused by the increase of the duties, but I have here evidence, to show, with reference to the leading manufacturing interests of the country, that, beyond the increase in the cost of the raw material to the manufacturer, the people pay nothing more under this Tariff than they would have done under the old. I believe, Sir, that that can be established beyond a doubt, and, under the circumstances, I look forward to the discussion on this subject not with any dread, but with a degree of satisfaction, feeling that the facts we can present will be most satisfactory to the country and to the friends of the National Policy. It was also said by gentlemen opposite that this policy would create an unfriendly feeling in England towards Canada. It is true, Sir, that, when we were there last summer, mingling with men in the manufacturing districts, we found expressions of disapproval with reference to our policy.

It was to be expected, because, owing to the position and the circumstances of that great nation, it has been led to adopt a different policy. Looking at us from their standpoint, the manufacturers there believe that our policy is unwise and injudicious; but have we had any evidence, has anything recently transpired to show that the attachment of the people of England and their regard for Canada and Canadians has been diminished by the enactment of this Tariff? Has there ever been in the history of this country a period when Canada has been looked to with greater interest by the people of Great Britain and Ireland than at this very moment? I think a distinguished member of the British Government can claim some acknowledgments from this country for the course he has taken in calling the attention of the people of Great Britain to Canada. We on our part have shown by the liberal vote given so recently by this House, that we are not only in a position to give employment and comfortable homesteads to the thousands and tens of thousands of working men who cannot find work over the water, but that we are prepared to extend to them a helping hand in the hour of their adversity. Sir, I think, if at any period Canada stood well on the other side of the Atlantic, that period is to day. But, Sir, the statement was made that the course we have taken would affect our credit in England. What evidence have we that it has affected our credit except favourably? When it became my duty to visit England last summer, and to ask the capitalists of that country to take another three millions of our 4 per cent. unguaranteed securities, there were paragraphs in the papers, which may have originated with speculators; and not with our political opponents, decrying this loan; and when the time for the reception of the tenders came, there were very grave doubts expressed with reference to the chances of obtaining the minimum that was named, because it was 4 per cent. higher than had ever been named by any Finance Minister before. And yet, Sir, in the face of this alleged damaged credit, we obtained for that loan \$700,000 more than my hon. friend opposite obtained for his loan of the same kind in 1874.