

Canada, so as to enable them to compete in the home market; and the farmers must be protected also, so that they may not have to depend altogether on a good crop or a bad crop." But, unfortunately for him, he had done nothing when he had the opportunity; he was only renewing his pledges when he had gone into Opposition; when he was the leader of a defeated, demoralized, and disorganized party, not even so strong as it was at the present moment, weak as it yet might be. However, the opportunity was soon offered to him. The right hon. member for Kingston, the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Tupper), and their party in the House, had the opportunity offered to them, if they had chosen to avail themselves of it, of bearing their testimony and endeavouring to force their views on the Government. They were sadly in need of a policy; of something to credit them with the people. In 1874, when they came back to that House, they should have done all in their power to prove to the country that, if they had the opportunity, they might have inaugurated their National Policy. But they did nothing of the kind. They all remembered that, on that occasion, the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Tupper) became, to all intents and purposes, the leader and mouth-piece of the party in this House, so far as financial questions were concerned. The hon. member spoke as follows:—

"The only interest the Finance Minister pretended was suffering the slightest depression was the agricultural interest, and he (Mr. Tupper) would ask the great consuming population of this country whether they thought the great agricultural interest was suffering? He thought they would give a decided response, without any hesitation, that the agricultural interest at this moment was enjoying a condition of prosperity second to none in the world."

That was the utterance of an hon. gentleman who was now prepared to support an amendment which, in terms, suggested that it was necessary that certain remedial measures should be applied to aid the condition of the agricultural community in Canada, and save them from extinction at the hands of a foreign invader. More than that,

the hon. gentleman was seized with a fit of alarm lest the Finance Minister should insidiously introduce, what he called, "the thin edge of the Protectionist wedge," and he went on to offer advice to the Finance Minister. "Let well enough alone," he said; "don't meddle with the tariff and disarrange the business of the country." Just compare that speech with the remarks of the right hon. member for Kingston on the hustings in 1872, the actions of Mr. Tilley in 1873, and the action of one of their supporters (Mr. White), outside, and the sincerity of their professions when they pretended that a National Policy was necessary in the interests of the country would be clearly demonstrated. More than that, the hon. gentleman opposite (Mr. Tupper) had descended to particulars. He had opposed the duties on manufactured articles used in ship-building, and exclaimed indignantly:

"Let the hon. Minister look at the neighbouring Republic, and he would find that the policy of that country had swept their flag off the seas and given to others the carrying trade of the world."

So that, with regard to one of the greatest interests of this country, the shipping interest, the hon. gentleman came out with language that would be worthy of Mr. David Wells himself. The policy hon. gentlemen opposite wished to adopt was, as he (Mr. Dymond) should show, an American policy; their tariff was an American tariff. The policy they intended to and would necessarily pursue with regard to shipping was the policy of the United States; the policy which the hon. member for Cumberland stated—should he say in a lucid interval—in 1874, "was sweeping the American mercantile shipping from the seas." It might be said the depression had not begun to be felt then. But the crisis in the United States had occurred many months before, and the fall of values in that country had considerably preceded the disasters which occurred in the fall of 1873. When the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood) first moved for a Committee on manufacturing interests in 1874, and they had the manufacturers before them, the universal testimony was that this