

straw and some rags, and last of all she got an old door and laid that upon them. After she had got them covered up, she asked one of them: "Do you think you will be warm?" "Oh, yes, mother," said the little one, "we shall be warm and comfortable, but what will the poor children do who have no old doors?" There was more heart in that little child, that will live and shine when all those who want to increase the cost of living for the poor have gone to their reward. I never think of that without feeling for the poor, and feeling that the gratitude of that poor thing under those circumstances it would be well if some of us felt when we are enjoying the blessing and comforts of life. This idea of dear things, this curse of poverty, this curse of hunger and of rags, travels right back through society. These rags go back to the manufacturer. Dear clothes means less clothes, and that means less business for the merchant, and less business for the manufacturer, and so the rags travel right back through all the industries. Dear bread means hunger for the poor, but it also means less sales for the grocer, and that means less sales for the miller, and that means less sales for the farmer; and so we cannot violate a natural law without feeling the effects of it somewhere; and, therefore, it is best for all concerned that everybody should be allowed to buy in the market as cheap as can be found. There is not so much difference between the rich and the poor at last. The rich and the poor must lie down together, and God is the Father of us all, and therefore we ought to remember that as we journey through life, and no class of men ought to consider it more than those who are at the helm of affairs. I think the National Policy ignores all that; I think it is opposed to all these benevolent and humane principles. In this Dominion we are blessed with abundance of coal. That is a gift from our Creator. That is intended to be cheap, that everybody may participate in the bounty of the Giver of all Good. In this country we have vast wheat fields, for which we ought to be thankful. That is intended for the good of the race, for the good of the country, and these gentlemen propose to make that dear for the people. The Creator intended that it should be cheap for the people, and plenty of it. We have great herds of cattle and flocks of sheep, in order that we may be fed and clothed, and this we ought to be thankful for, for "the cattle on a thousand hills are His," and all comes from Him; but we are trying, by our legislation here, or at least the gentlemen on the Government benches are making all things dear, trying to fix taxes upon them and to make it difficult for the people to be comfortable and happy. A cheap country to live in—if that is not the Grit's paradise, it is mine. Take it all in all, England, with all her faults, is the greatest, and the wisest, and the best nation the world has ever seen. England has led the way in art, and in arms, and in commerce, and in freedom, and I hope she may long continue to lead the van; but, in all that England has ever done, there is no part of her history that shines out more brightly than when she fought out the battle against protection and made England a cheap country to live in. The statesmen and the philanthropists of England saw the millions of starving poor. I was there myself once when a boy. The agitation was going on at that time for the repeal of the corn laws, and I took occasion, in my rambles through the cities, to talk with the poor, and I went into those bazaars which were situated all over England, in the towns and cities I visited, and gave my small contribution to help that work. They succeeded in removing that curse, and I did not think that, forty years after I was there as a lad, I would be standing in Parliament trying to combat the evil under which that nation had groaned from generation to generation. But that is the fact, and as they had had to struggle many a long year, I fear that that is a fight still before us, and that many a man is to fall before this incubus, this evil, this

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curse is removed from this Canada of ours. I know that perhaps it is expedient for some men, and may be for many, not to express their opinions, because the combined influence of Governments, and manufacturers, and monopolies, is almost more than a man's election or position is worth if he ventures his opinions, but timid as I am constitutionally, when I feel it my duty to express my opinion on a great question of this kind, I shall do it, no matter what the consequences are. That battle has been fought out in England, and no statesman, whether he be Tory or Liberal, will ever reverse that verdict. You do not hear this agitated in England; and why should they? Do they want to go back to rags? Do they want to go back to hunger? Do they want to go back to depression? Do they want to go back to the condition in which they were before they arrived at the conclusion that people in England should live as cheap as the world could give it? They should have bread as cheap as the world could give it; they should have meat as cheap as the world could give it; they should have every necessary of life as cheap as the world could give it, from the hat on their head to the shoes on their feet. Do you suppose they would ever undertake to go back to that condition? No, never. But we have gone back, and we are in the position they were in before that change was made. I will read an extract from the speech of the hon. member for Cardwell (Mr. White):

"Ask any commercial traveller who has been in England buying goods what condition he found there; ask any one who has an opportunity of testing the feeling of the commercial circles in Great Britain; look at the records of people out of employment, and at the record of failures, and you will find the statement is absolutely accurate, that for a quarter of a century no such depression has existed in England as that which has existed during this last year."

I have no doubt that is correct. I dare say that there is great depression in England, and that the commercial traveller was correct in his statement. I have not seen any commercial traveller that has been in England, but I have seen a good many commercial travellers that have been in Canada. He did not see them, and I did not see the gentleman he saw; but I have seen a good many commercial travellers, and I have talked with them in regard to the condition of commerce in the country. Some of them have been on the road for twenty years, and they have told me that they have never seen such commercial depression during their time as there is at present: such a stagnation of trade, so hard to dispose of their goods, and especially in the Maritime Provinces. I know that to be the fact myself, although I am not away much from home, but I have correspondence, and I am aware of the fact that commercially the country has not been so depressed for a great many years. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not charge the Government with this depression, except so far as increased taxation has helped to produce it; I do not refer to it because I think they were the cause of bringing it about. But let them remember when the Liberal Government was in power what they used to say. I can see a face here and there that was here at that time. I remember their faces; I remember their speeches; I remember their voices, and I remember their unreasonable demands, and their unreasonable charges against the Government, of being flies on the wheel, of letting the people leave the country, of allowing business to become depressed, of getting a small revenue, and all that sort of thing. And that gives rise to much of the speech-making that there is at this time—it is just to bring to the recollection of those hon. gentlemen how they treated their opponents then. Now, I am not silly enough to suppose the Liberal Government could prevent a depression; and I am not silly enough to charge the present Government, seriously, with having caused this depression; but I can say they told the people they could do it. They told the people that if they were in power they could bring back prosperity. I ask then now to do it; I ask them to fulfil their promises now. I ask them by