

practical statesmanship in the conduct of the affairs of the country. I believe men who are charged with the administration of public affairs are in duty bound to do this. If a country is large, powerful, and wealthy, it can afford to adhere to principles which it may believe to be sound, but a country like ours must do the best it can under the circumstances in which it finds itself placed. It must compromise. We are like the mariner, we must trim our sails to catch the wind from whatever quarter it blows, and endeavor to use it to promote our advancement. The mariner cannot command a fair wind, but has to tack and get on as he best can with the aid of whatever wind may blow. This is very much our condition.

PRINCE BISMARCK ON FREE TRADE.

The last great convert to a national policy of whom I have heard is Prince Bismarck. Here are his own words as they are reported :—

“ I have given free trade a trial, and it does not seem to have benefitted the country commercially, industrially, or financially. I am overwhelmed with lamentation respecting the decline of trade and the decay of manufacturing enterprise, and with assurances—from people for whose judgment in such matters I entertain the highest respect—that partial and moderate protection will remedy those evils as if by magic. Therefore, I also propose to give protection a chance of ameliorating the condition of the manufacturing and operative classes, and of lightening the load which the budget unquestionably lays upon the shoulder of the nation. As certain of the Ministers with whom I have hitherto worked on my former platform will not range themselves by my side on my new platform, I must rid myself of them, and put others in their place who will carry out my resolves.”

Now, Mr. Chairman, there is no more practical and successful statesman in the world than Prince Bismarck. These are his views, and I think we can well afford to profit by them.

TAXATION FALLACY EXPOSED.

It is often said that, if we were to adopt the national policy, taxation would be increased. That assertion is sent abroad as a sort of bug-bear by those who are opposed to a national policy. The Government fixes the annual expenditure, and then has to provide the revenue to meet it, and the commercial policy would merely govern the mode in which the revenue should be raised, the articles upon which it should be levied, not the amount. No one, I fancy, would propose that a revenue exceeding the wants of the country should be raised. The question is whether we shall continue to raise a revenue by imposing duties upon what we do not produce, or by increasing the duties on articles which we do or can produce. Therein consists the difference between the existing policy and the proposed national policy. The aggregate amount of taxation would not be affected, but the tariff would be readjusted, and that is well known to many of those who circulate a different tale to deceive again those whom they have already deceived. The adoption of a national policy would lighten the burden of taxation.