

amine it, that there is something wrong in the policy which is now prevailing in this country and which has prevailed for the last thirteen years. A country situated as Canada is, a country possessing the resources that Canada does, a country inhabited by the kind of population that inhabits Canada, is a country that should increase faster than at this snail's pace we have been going. Something is required to give an impetus to the progress of this country, something is required to secure for this country that measure of prosperity which it certainly has not enjoyed for the last twenty or thirty years.

While this last decade has been passing away we have been making progress in some respects. We have made satisfactory progress in the matter of accumulating our public debt. We started out with a debt of \$155,000,000, and we landed at the end with a debt of \$237,000,000. We have increased our debt \$82,000,000, or 52 per cent., even if we have only increased our population by 11 per cent. We started out at the commencement of the decade with Customs and Excise taxes amounting to \$23,942,000, and we ended with Customs and Excise taxation amounting to \$31,587,000, or an increase of \$7,644,000 in taxation. If we take the previous year of 1880, we find that we have increased our taxation by \$13,107,000, or 79 per cent. since then, and we have increased our expenditure from \$25,502,000 to \$35,994,000, an increase of \$10,491,000, or 41 per cent. increase. Here, Sir, are the results of this miserable fiasco called the National Policy. Here are the results of this political falsehood, of this fiscal confidence game, that enables the few to plunder the many, that makes the fishermen, the farmers, the lumbermen and the miners the prey of a very small portion of the population. That is the outcome of what the Government designates by the high-sounding title of the National Policy; and yet we are told by the Minister of Finance that under its operation for twelve years, with the evidence we have now before our eyes, that that policy has been a satisfactory one. What do we want in this country, Mr. Speaker? We want access to our natural market; we want to have done with this condition of things which has brought this country to the verge of ruin; we want to put a party in power that will manage the finances of this country with that prudence with which they were managed from 1873 to 1878, we want to put a party in power that will secure for this country such commercial treaties and such commercial arrangements as will give us access to the population of 63,000,000 at our doors, which is a matter of vital importance to us. We want, Sir, to inaugurate a policy that will put an end to that system of things that leaves us with a population of less than 5,600,000, when we should have a population of 8,500,000. This year we are likely to export to the United States, of the products of Canada, a quantity very much less than in 1866, at the end of the reciprocity treaty. After the expiration of twenty-five years we will have a smaller trade with that great country than we had in 1866,

0-2

when it had only half the population it has now. We want to inaugurate a policy which will cease to require this country to act as a hive to send off its annual swarms to the United States, and which keeps our population down to low-water mark, with a beggarly increase of 11 per cent. in ten years, when there ought to be an increase of 30 per cent., in addition to the increase from immigration. We want, Sir, a policy that will drive from power the men who have doubled the public debt of this country, who have piled upon this country an extravagant, and unjustifiable, and unnecessary expenditure; the men who have made the name of this country a by-word among the nations of the earth, giving us a character for corruption, and speculation, and fraud, and contract sweating, the most unenviable reputation enjoyed by any civilized country in the world. I say, Sir, we want to drive from power the men who are responsible for this condition of things and whose garments smell very strongly, to say the least, of the odours that emanate from this foul sink of corruption. Sir, we want in short, and the sum of it all amounts to this, we want to participate on equal terms, and without impediment and without exaction, in the energies and in the activity that characterizes all the Anglo-Saxon people of this continent. We want, in place of having free trade with seven Anglo-Saxon nations under the British flag, to enlarge the number, so that we will have free trade with forty-nine. We want the market of 63,000,000 of people across the border; we want to sell them the productions of our mines, and our forests, and our seas, and our soil. If the Liberal policy is carried into effect, if that arrangement which the Liberal party is able to give to this country, and which the Liberal party if in power would secure for this country, if that arrangement is carried into effect, then, as my hon. friend, the Minister of Finance says, the turning point would indeed come; then we would have prosperity, and then Canada would show to the world all the things she is capable of; she would show to the world that with her grand resources, her extensive sweeps of fertile soil, her forests, her mines and her fisheries, that her energetic population are capable of accomplishing as much as any given number of people on the face of the earth is capable of doing. Sir, it is melancholy to see a noble young country like this, with all its magnificent resources chained down; it is melancholy to see it overburdened by debt; it is melancholy to see it in the hands of such men as we see sitting opposite us, incompetent, if not worse, who have brought the country to the verge of ruin; and unless they are driven from their place of power, unless their grip upon the country is released, we shall see even worse times than we have seen yet.

OTTAWA:

Printed by BROWN CHAMBERLIN, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

1891.