

MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. gentleman has the right to show how a duty on coal will affect other interests.

MR. COCKBURN said the demand for machinery had increased very much. The trouble had been too much home competition, not the slaughter markets, or any policy of the Government. Manufacturing establishments had been multiplied throughout the country, and the consequence was over-production. They did not require to stimulate manufacturers to produce more than the country needed. He hoped that after a while circumstances might change so that their friends from the Maritime Provinces might be able to compete with American coal in consequence of the reduction of the cost of freight, better carrying facilities, and other causes which they could not exactly name just now; so that they might have a larger inter-provincial trade than at present. It was quite obvious that this so-called National Policy was being fairly exposed throughout the country. People were beginning to have their eyes opened. The other day he had heard of an old Tory campaigner saying "What is the use of this Protection cry? Let us have scandals, they are the things."

Some HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. BOWELL: You know that by experience.

MR. COCKBURN said he was free to admit that hon. gentlemen on the Ministerial side of the House had adopted the same tactics in past times, but none of them had gone to the extreme length of taking trips thousands of miles long in order to scent out some proposed job. He considered the present motion quite impracticable, and should vote against it. References had been made to the tea duties. He assented that the people throughout the country were quite satisfied with the tea duties. They had never had better or cheaper tea than at present. Some hon. gentlemen had argued against free trade, but there was no proposition before the House in favour of free trade. We had an incidental protection, which, taking it all and all, was the best for our circumstances.

MR. JONES (Halifax) said he could quite sympathize with the hon. members for Cape Breton (Mr. MacKay) and Inverness (Mr. MacDonnell) to have a question of this kind affecting an industry in which the people of Cape Breton were so largely interested, discussed before the Parliament of Canada. But they must see the difficulties involved in the consideration of a motion of this kind. They must see from the discussions which had taken place in this Parliament, that if a motion of this kind were entertained it must extend over the whole fiscal policy of this country. The hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Tupper) had seemed anxious to make a point against the Government for the unswerving hostility, as he was pleased to call it, which they had shown to the coal interest of Cape Breton. He thought the hon. gentleman was more anxious to make a point against the Government than he was to forward the measure which he was professedly advocating. He thought the hon. gentleman could hardly point to any act of hostility on the part of this Government against the coal interests of Nova Scotia. They had dealt with that question on a broad basis, as they had dealt with all other questions. They had been obliged to consider it in a broad and national aspect, and to see how it was going to affect the greatest number of the people of this Dominion. They could not entertain a proposition to put a duty on coal alone or on flour alone, because those were sectional interests which were proposed to be fostered at the expense of the great body of the consumers of this country. The hon. member for Cumberland would remember, no doubt, when the present Government, in 1874, proposed a duty on ships' materials, no one was louder than he in denunciation of that policy, because he pointed out, and with some force, that it was a sectional tax applying to the people of the Maritime Provinces, who would have to pay it, while the people of Ontario and Quebec would not be called upon to contribute anything to it. The Government reconsidered the matter, though not particularly in view of the objections of the hon. gentleman, and con-