

official capacity—and committed himself at Dundee and elsewhere unreservedly to extreme Free Trade doctrines. Since he has returned to this country he has continued a Free Trader, and has imbued his followers with the same feeling. We have endeavoured ever since in Parliament to get justice to Canada, but in vain. The season before last I introduced a very moderate resolution at once to foster the agricultural, mining, and manufacturing interests of the country. That was rejected, and was introduced in substance again last session with the same ill-success. We are going to fight this out to the bitter end. It was announced in the session of 1873 by Mr. Tilly on behalf of the late Ministry that in the session of 1874 the tariff was to be readjusted so as to give some encouragement to our manufacturers. That gave confidence; but the moment we went out that confidence ceased, and an immediate shock was given to our industries. Gentlemen, when I addressed the electors of Kingston in 1874 I told you what the consequence of the policy of the Government would be. I told you that your workshops would be shut up, that the working classes would be deprived of their employment, that our artisans would have to work at three-quarters, half, and lastly no time at all, and that the mechanics would have to go away to the States in order to find the work they should get in their own country. Has not all that come true? (Hear, hear.) You find it so in Kingston, and it is the same in Toronto and Montreal, and everywhere else. At Toronto what did I see? I saw that while R. Hay & Co., the furniture manufacturers, who employed from two to three hundred men, and did not wish to turn any of them out of employment, were keeping them on at three-quarters or half time. At that very time shop furniture from the United States was sold by auction on our streets at prices at which no manufacturer could afford to sell it. What was the reason? The Americans have a home market of 40,000,000 of people, and foreigners are kept out of it. Every now and then, through competition, they make more goods than the 40,000,000 want, and what do they do? The inferior articles that their people won't buy are sent over to our market, and sold at any price. Our country is made a slaughter market, and so, from one end of the country to the other, the manufactures have been ruined, and men are obliged to go to the States for the work that Canada ought to find for them. Why, if the present Government had re-adjusted the tariff, and a re-arrangement of the tariff does not involve of necessity an increase on the whole of the burdens of the people; if they had imposed duties on articles that we can manufacture, and taken the duties off those that we cannot manufacture, our manufacturing industries would have been sustained and developed, and we would have kept our skilled artisans in our own country. As Mr. Tupper has told us, we must, to carry out our national policy, have the joint action of manufacturers and agriculturists. Gentlemen, manufacturers who desire Protection—you must not grumble if we give the farmer Protection. The farmer will not consent to Protection to the manufacturer unless there is reciprocity, and they are also protected. You must, then, act together, and we shall soon find the old feeling of confidence restored. I am told that in this autumn we are to have a joint picnic between Kingston and Frontenac. I shall have an opportunity of seeing you then, and we shall have an opportunity of discussing this subject from one o'clock to any hour we please. Therefore I will not keep you any longer at this late hour. I am more than obliged to you for your kindness in greeting me as you have greeted me; I am more than grateful for the way in which you have greeted my friend and colleague. And the only way in which I can repay you is by promising to give for the rest of my career, my time and all the ability that God has blessed me with in support of your interests, and the interests of the whole people of Canada. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

These speeches are at least open to

criticism. It cannot be forgotten that Sir John Macdonald's own government proposed and carried with considerable difficulty duties, on coal, salt, and on agricultural products, and that it was compelled to consent to a repeal of those duties in the following session. It cannot be forgotten that there was a considerable difference of opinion among the conservative supporters of the government on the subject of those duties, and that they were only carried owing to the conviction that the defeat of the government would lead to its resignation. It is possible that there has been a change in public opinion on the subject of these duties, but we have seen no evidence that such is the case. The cry against the coal duty especially came from every city and town in Ontario as well as from the cities of Montreal and Quebec. With regard to the duties on manufactured articles no material change has been made in them since they were established at the period of confederation. Sir John Macdonald refers to an announcement made by Mr. Tilly in 1873 that in the session of 1874 the tariff was to be readjusted "so as to give some encouragement to our manufactures." At that time the duty on enumerated articles was 15 per cent, which certainly affords "some encouragement," and it has been raised by the present administration to 17½. The advocates of protection have repeatedly declared that they would be satisfied with 20 per cent, and we think it far from improbable that the necessities of the government will be found so great as to compel them to impose an additional 2½ next session. It is not likely that even such an increase will give general satisfaction at present, although if we are not mistaken, Mr. Workman, himself a protectionist, avowed during last session that he would be quite satisfied with a 20 per cent tariff. We do not know how Dr. Tupper reconciles his statement that the country enjoyed "progress and prosperity" during the seven years of Sir John Macdonald's administration and when the duties on manufactures were only 15 per cent, with his further statement that the existing depression is owing to the want of protection, and that we shall not have prosperity without a complete change in the fiscal policy of the country. There is a patent fact which must not be overlooked in this discussion. No industry has suffered more than our lumber interest, and it will be difficult for Dr. Tupper to prove that the depression in that trade has been caused by our low duties on American manufactures. The truth is that the existing depression has

been mainly owing to an abnormal condition of trade from which there is reason to hope that we shall recover before very long. That abnormal condition has resulted chiefly from enormous unprofitable expenditures on public works both in the United States and Canada. The recovery from the collapse is as certain as anything can be, but it has been much more tedious than was at first anticipated, and Dr. Tupper's comparison between the United States and Canada affords evidence that the former country has pursued and is pursuing a more conservative policy than the latter. Even at the present time, notwithstanding the depression, there are new projects of railways towards the construction of which no sane individual would subscribe a single dollar of capital, but which it is hoped may be built on the basis of municipal bonuses on the strength of which foreigners may be induced to float bonds. We have enough of partially constructed roads to complete, to tax our utmost energies, without embarking in new and even wilder enterprises of a similar description. We are, however, diverging from our subject. We are far from denying that we should have suffered less during our period of depression had foreign goods been admitted on less favorable terms, but we own that we doubt the expediency of committing ourselves to an exceptional fiscal policy at a time when we are suffering from a depression which most assuredly was not caused by our tariff and which would have existed even although the duties on manufactures had been as high as the most extreme protectionists have demanded. We shall watch with interest and attention the utterances on this subject, not only of the conservative leaders but of the people whom they visit.

THE SILVER STANDARD.

If we can believe the announcements made in the journals of the United States, the government of that country is about to commit not only a blunder, but a positive fraud. It is alleged that Mr. Sherman is favorable to making silver a legal tender for all purposes for which United States notes are now a legal tender, but that he opposes legalizing silver in payment of customs duties; in other words, there is to be one currency for the government, and another for the people at large. The effect of such a policy will simply be to permit the greenbacks to remain about their present value, which, as compared with gold, is about the same as silver. The latest quotations give gold at a premium of about 5, while silver is at a discount of about 5 per cent. The