

intelligence to announce to the leader of the Opposition and his friends, who had endeavoured to convince the House and the country that the people of the Maritime Provinces would be injured, and the Province of Prince Edward Island destroyed, by the Tariff. The local elections had just been held, the National Policy being of course the greatest question discussed. It was said the country was to be ruined on account of the heavy taxes imposed by the Conservative Government, at Ottawa; however, he was happy to say that the Local Conservative Government, who supported the National Policy, was returned by twenty-five against five.

"Mr. Mackenzie said it was the first time he ever heard a Cabinet Minister make such an announcement. If the hon. gentleman had no more sense of the dignity of his own position he might, at least, have some respect for the Cabinet of which he was a member."

It can easily be surmised that such an announcement was far from being agreeable, far from being cheering to the hon. member for Lambton, and that on the spur of the moment he uttered harsh words, which he probably regrets now. Nevertheless, if it be true that the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries—to use the very same language of that hon. gentleman—exhibited by this announcement, an utter lack of respect for the dignity of his position, what shall we say of the hon. leader of the Opposition, what shall we say of his hon. followers, who have been sinning in the same manner, and on a much enlarged scale, since the commencement of the debate, in connection with the local elections of Ontario, contradicting themselves in a manner that should amaze every member of this House. We have heard it stated by some hon. gentlemen opposite that even the manufacturers were dissatisfied with the National Policy—that very policy which, according to them, had been concocted in their sole interest, to the detriment of the mass of the people—as if the interest of the manufacturers could be diametrically opposed to the interest of the nation of which they form a most important element. The hon. member for West Elgin has specially devoted himself to that task, employing for that purpose a process of fabrication which, I regret to say, is not altogether unfamiliar to the opponents of the present Tariff. But, Sir, if ever a statement made by a member of this House has been demolished by an avalanche of the most crushing evidence that could be brought against it, it was the statement which the hon. mem-

ber for West Elgin made, it is reported, under the responsibility of a certain Reform club. The visits which the hon. the Minister of Finance has taken the trouble to pay to many of the most important manufactories of Canada, and for which he deserves the warmest praises of the country, has fully established to every unprejudiced mind that the condition of the manufacturers has been greatly improved to their own benefit and to the benefit of the working classes. And the public returns which have been submitted to the House fully demonstrate also that the productive powers of the Dominion have been vastly developed—a fact fully corroborated by a considerable reduction of our imports of foreign fabrics—a reduction which has operated specially to the prejudice of the American producer, who, but for that wise policy, would have secured an almost absolute control of the Canadian market. Sir, a meeting of the manufacturers of Ontario took place not very long ago at Toronto, and not a dissentient voice was heard against the National Policy. Far from it, every one present—and amongst them were life-long Reformers—manifested his warm approval of the present Tariff. In a long speech on the effects of the National Policy, the President, Mr. E. Guernsey, jun., uttered the following words, which I will read from a report published in the *Globe*:

"The Tilley tariff is the boldest piece of commercial legislation that was ever instituted in Canada. He had confidence to predict for all classes of industry a course of prosperity equal to the hopes of the most sanguine supporters of that measure. Already a most decided improvement had taken place, and the results of the next twelve months will be of such a pronounced benefit as to make it extremely hazardous for a leader to bring forward a measure proposing its repeal."

Let me now draw the attention of the House to the very important declaration made by Mr. W. H. Howland—a gentleman well-known as a Liberal and as a man thoroughly versed in commercial affairs. I am again quoting from the report of the *Globe*:

"Mr. Howland said that in the face of the great change in the financial affairs of the country since the last meeting of the association, he desired to move a resolution. In looking back over the past they could all see how black a time they had passed through, and how many were upon the verge of ruin. He did