

to the population. I would have voted against the coal and flour resolutions last Session, but I would re-impose these duties in circumstances similar to those attending the Washington Treaty negotiations, and would take something off sugar and other articles largely consumed by the masses."

Now in that the Finance Minister said that, in order to secure reciprocity, it was necessary, in the interests of the country, in 1871, to impose duties. Here was what the First Minister said on the same subject, in 1872:

"The feeling in 1865 was, however, very strong in favour of doing everything in our power in order to induce the Americans to renew the treaty. The Government did everything it could, and, while its members were exerting themselves in that direction, it would have been a suicidal course—it would have been threatening the very purpose in view—if they had increased the taxes at that time, even to inaugurate a National Policy. Because the Americans could have said, 'How can we give you a reciprocity treaty when you are increasing the duties on our goods?' Therefore, from year to year, so long as there was any hope of a renewal of the treaty, Canada declined to raise a larger revenue than was absolutely necessary to carry on the Government."

This was the utterance of the First Minister, diametrically opposite to that of the Finance Minister. One said put on the duty, and the other said take it off. In 1871, when a duty was put on flour and coal, this Government never contemplated establishing a National Policy. The fiscal policy of the United States was the same now as it was then; and if it was necessary now, and the country called loudly, thinking its prosperity was imperilled, for some such system as obtained in the United States, why did not those hon. gentlemen propound this National Policy in 1871? The circumstances were precisely the same. He would call attention to some of the utterances of the hon. the Minister of Public Works, in 1874, also of the First Minister in 1872, in this question, and it could not be denied that the fiscal policy of the United States had remained unchanged since then. It was said then that this country was in a most prosperous condition, and that they did not want even reciprocity; that they were going on successfully and prosperously. The First Minister said, in 1872:

"Although we have been without reciprocity from 1866 until now; although we have been virtually excluded from the markets of the United States, our farmers are richer than ever, and easily find a sale for their products in the markets of the world. They are increasing their farms, and improving the breed of their live stock. In every branch of the agricultural community you see they are rising superior to the temporary disadvantage caused by the loss of the United States markets."

That was the declaration of the First Minister in 1872. How had things changed since then?

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD:
A change of Ministry.

SIR A. J. SMITH said that recalled to his mind that this National Policy never was thought of until it became a necessity of the Conservative party. The hon. the Minister of Public Works, after the change of Government in 1873, believed, because he stated it to many of his friends, that the other Government would not remain in power six months. He seemed to have the conviction that the Government would not even be able to administer the public affairs of this country. The Government did live six months and longer, and the hon. gentlemen on the other side found that the Mackenzie Government could administer the affairs of the country, and not only that, but they had done so well and honestly. They found that, in order to succeed to power, it was necessary to resort to some other agency than usual. They found discontent, depression and hard times existing in the country, and they felt that, by working upon the prejudices of the people, they could create a public opinion in favour of a National Policy. Those gentlemen knew that this statement had been proved correct. He would now see what the Minister of Public Works said in 1874, after the late Government had been in power some months:

"The only interest the Finance Minister pretended was suffering the slightest depression, was the agricultural interest, and he (Mr. Tupper) would ask the great consuming population of the country whether they thought the great agricultural interest was suffering? He thought they would give a decided response, without any hesitation, that the agricultural interest, at this moment, was enjoying a condition of prosperity second to none in the world."