

1878. Let us remember the time of depression, the time of sinking hearts, empty pockets, and empty larders—(hear, hear, and applause)—and let us bear in mind that since the National Policy has been inaugurated we see in the country a prosperous, contented, and happy people, and we find Canada standing amongst the first of the nations in the world in credit, in resources, in standing, in reputation, and in fruition. (Cheers.) Mr. Chairman, I owe much, and those who act with me owe much, to the people of Toronto, to

The Workingmen of Toronto.

(Loud cheers.) It was here on this platform that the first spark was lighted. (Applause.) It was here that the wave of enthusiasm which spread over the whole Dominion originated. (Cheers.) It was here that the foundations of the National Policy were laid. (Cheers.) And I ask you if there has not been a noble, magnificent superstructure raised on the foundation which you, the workingmen of Toronto, so successfully prepared in 1878. (Applause.) You gave me your confidence, gentlemen—and although it was said by those who were opposed to me that my policy was only a pretence, that the line I had taken in Parliament, the line that the Conservative Opposition had taken in Parliament with a view to rescuing the country from the depression was only a political cry, that when we came into power we would not carry out our policy, that there would be no National Policy, no readjustment of the tariff, no attempt to encourage our industries, agricultural, manufacturing, and mining, that our policy was a mere political dodge, and that we were not in earnest—although all this was said, we did carry out our policy. (Cheers.) And I appeal to you as workingmen to witness whether I have not fully carried out the pledges I made before I took office, whether the tariff you expected has not been adopted, whether the industries which I said ought to be encouraged have not been developed, and whether instead of despondency there is not now hope, enterprise, and activity in every branch of business, public and private? (Cheers.) It is true, gentlemen, we see yet but the infancy of the manufactures and industries which we have established, or have tried to establish. These things cannot be established in a hurry. You cannot plant the seed to-day and get the crop to-morrow. But we have sown the seed; and much more rapidly, much more speedily, than even I—sanguine as I was of the success of the policy—expected, it has grown; and it now shows the

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