

ley, for which so large a market, under happier circumstances, would be offered in the United States, trusting to the prairies and the country away westward, where wheat is almost a plant natural to the soil, for the supplying of our people with bread. Over-trading, which has been spoken of in this paragraph, is, I think, very much what has been anticipated by gentlemen holding similar opinions to those which I have formed. Whenever you undertake to interfere with the industries of the country, and to direct them to some channel which is not natural to its people or climate, such results as are referred to in the paragraph in the Speech are likely to happen. The hon. gentleman from Alberta, in the elaborate speech with which he favored this House, entered very largely into the subject and he pointed out the fact that in adopting the National Policy we have followed the example of our neighbors over the border; but he did not tell us that the circumstances of this Dominion and those of the United States were not similar, though to make the parallel complete we should have had a war and a rebellion in Canada, incurred an enormous debt, and set afloat a vast amount of inconvertible papers. Had we done so, we might, so far, have adopted a parallel between the United States and Canada, with some success. But to contend that a policy, because it has been successful in the United States, must necessarily be successful in Canada, is in fact a very great error. We have neither the resources, population nor raw material possessed by the United States, and consequently to adopt a policy which may, or may not, have been successful there, is, I think, a very rash and unguarded experiment. To my mind, and I think the facts will bear me out the success of what we call in Canada the "National Policy," but which is understood in the United States, under the term "Protection," has not been so great as is generally supposed. It must be remembered that the normal state of such a region as the United States, and of such a colony as Canada, is, or ought to be one of progress and prosperity, and times of difficulty or hardship, in such countries, ought to be rare and almost unknown. It is quite true that Providence sometimes inflicts a scarcity even upon such countries,

and that the crops are injured by causes which no human foresight or prudence could guard against. It may be that an early frost diminishes our products, or that the grasshopper or some other insect destroys the crops, and these occurrences are known to be unavoidable; but for all that the natural and ordinary state of things in such countries as Canada and the United States ought to be one of very general progress and contentment, and if other conditions prevail they must, I think, very often be traceable to mistaken interference and incompetent legislation—legislation not suited to the times, but calculated to further the interests of certain classes of society, and of them alone. It can be stated upon the authority of one intelligent British traveller, and of not a few Americans of first rate mark, that the growth of Free Trade principles in the United States, is very great indeed at present.

It is stated by Mr. David Wells that, among the colleges in the United States in which there exists a chair of Political Economy, you can find only a limited number—I think he said two—in which the professor of political economy is not a free-trader. The same observation has been made by a most intelligent Scotch traveller, a late chairman of committees in the House of Commons, who visited the United States with the view of collecting information, and with the object of satisfying his mind upon some points of political economy which were somewhat obscure to Englishmen and Scotchmen. He came to the United States well introduced and with every opportunity of satisfying himself upon this point, and his evidence in regard to the education of the rising generation in that country, is precisely the same as that of Mr. Wells—that you can scarcely find in the United States a College Professor of political economy, who is not a free-trader. So I think, hon. gentlemen, that we have a fair prospect of seeing that great Chinese wall which has been erected away to the South of us, have several tiers of its topmost stones taken off, before some of us are many years older. At this stage of the debate I do not feel inclined to go at length into this subject, but I must say that I think the prosperity that has been predicted as the result of the National Policy, can be traced