

in my own county go away; and they have left St. John, not by hundreds, but thousands, since the National Policy came into operation. These men have gone where they expected to better their condition. Of course, many would come and go under any circumstances, but the friends of this policy predicted it would find food and work and comfort for all. They knew better at the time—that it would not produce that effect; or they ought to have known it. I remember the Finance Minister, in replying to an address at St. Andrews, N.B., said:—“Six months from the time the Conservative party succeeds, there will be work found for every man, woman and child in that town.” Was that a figure of speech? Did it mean anything? I should expect to see any promise of mine fulfilled. That speech, to a certain extent, perhaps, influenced the people, who thought that the new policy would furnish them with labour, food and clothing. Not only has it not furnished a day's work to those people, but it has heaped upon them a load of taxation; everything they eat, drink and wear being more expensive than before. So far as the county of Charlotte, and the whole of New Brunswick is concerned, I believe this policy has proved injurious to every interest. The Fisheries have suffered as well as other industries, and the Government may thank their stars that prices have improved in England and the United States. That is the only bright spot of comfort they have. I have heard it attributed to the National Policy—a statement no more absurd, however, than many others from hon. gentlemen on the Government side. The National Policy has established warehouses in Calais, that very important lumbering concerns may be able to carry on their business successfully there. I do not know of a lumbering concern of any magnitude that has not established a warehouse on the American side since the adoption of that policy. I have been told by one of the cleverest merchants of St. Stephen, a large lumber operator, that it has fixed a tax of \$100 additional on each team of two horses that the lumbermen send into the woods. It must have crushed that industry in New Brunswick but for the improvement in the foreign market. That has given some satis-

faction and encouragement to our business men, however. But, excepting the improvement in the lumbering interest, I never knew so much depression and darkness in regard to the business prospects of New Brunswick. The National Policy has injured our shipping and coasting trade, by depriving it of return freights, and reducing earnings. We have no shipping trade with Western Canada; our vessels carry our lumber and farm products to the United States, and it is of great importance they should have return freights. Our trade and business is with the United States and Great Britain. We have nothing to send to Canada west; and it is in the interest of our people to buy, with the proceeds of their exports, what they most conveniently can in those countries, and bring it back in our vessels. We are now compelled to pay a duty of 50c. a barrel on flour, bought from Canadians, of the same grade as we used to get without that duty in the United States. I am assured by merchants that we now pay that much more for the flour. That is one of the fruits of the National Policy. I do not think I exaggerate in saying that, within the last year, 20,000 people, mostly men, have left the Lower Provinces. The emigration is as large, proportionately, from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island as from New Brunswick. That policy, so far as New Brunswick is concerned, has resulted in nothing but oppression, heavy taxation and ruin. If there are any hon. gentlemen in the country responsible for this sad condition of things, it must be the hon. the Minister of Finance and the hon. the Minister of Railways, none of whose predictions of prosperity have been fulfilled. They were like the golden pictures sketched to induce us to enter Confederation. The stream of prosperity was to flow quick and violent. I was willing to make the best of Confederation, after we were in it, but there was no necessity for making Confederation a failure by this policy. I am glad it has fallen to the lot of the hon. the Finance Minister and colleagues to introduce it—to inflict it upon the country. I am glad the Reform party has not been guilty of this craze, if I may so style the National Policy. My thoughts are carried back some