

paid as duty upon that class of goods, was 11¼ per cent. and on the total goods, 0.68½ per cent. Let us look at the result of the imports of this class of goods between 1891 and 1894, when we had the full fruit of the policy which was to bring about such beneficent results. Our total imports of dutiable iron and steel goods during that period amounted to \$38,846,092, as against \$35,283,256 between 1874 and 1877. Free goods fell off enormously, being only \$9,012,093, between 1891 and 1894, as against \$25,733,836 in the former period. On a total import of \$47,890,185, in the latter five years we paid a duty of \$10,848,249, or an average on dutiable goods of 28·10, and on the net total, 22·85 per cent. Nearly eleven millions were collected in duty on forty-seven millions, as against four millions on the sixty-one millions of iron and steel imported between 1874 and 1877. These figures alone are very significant. Had Mr. Mackenzie placed on iron and steel importations during his regime the duty that was placed by hon. gentlemen opposite during the last five years, he would have had an enormous net surplus derived from this one class of articles alone. On the whole the average increase of duty on steel and iron and manufactured goods represented an increased revenue of \$800,000 per year paid into the exchequer, which would have wiped out the deficits which occurred during the Mackenzie Administration, and would have given a large sum of money to be expended on public works and for other useful public services.

But what has been the result of this increased taxation? It has fostered combines in every department connected with the iron and steel industry. There is not a free man in Canada to-day when it comes to purchasing anything into which iron and steel enter as an important part of its manufacture. The country is under an abject and absolute slavery, because every seller is bound by obligations, under severe penalties, not to sell an article, except at a rate fixed by a powerful combination, and the consequence is that to-day the whole consuming population of Canada is held down under the iron hand of one of the most powerful and unscrupulous corporations ever known in this country, or, perhaps, ever known in any part of the civilized world. The people are paying into the treasury of that corporation millions every year in order to build up that industry—to what extent? To-day we have but four furnaces in the Dominion of Canada, and we were promised in 1887, that we would have 20,000 men employed, giving a population of 100,000 souls subsisting on this industry, while we have less than 500 men employed, showing a falling off of 19,500 men from the extravagant prediction made by the gentleman who introduced and supported this measure. There never was, and never can be, a more

ignominious failure on the part of a public policy than the failure of the iron duties to accomplish the objects which they were levied to secure.

Again, there was to be no increase in expenditure. The finances of this country were to be administered more cheaply. There was to be no increase in taxation, there was to be no increase on the burdens of the people. There was to be a reduction in all the items of expenditure controllable by Parliament. Almost vindictive attacks were made by Dr. Tupper and his colleagues on the expenditure of the Liberal Government, and the inference was conveyed, if the actual promise was not made in Parliament that the expenditure would be reduced. At all events that promise was made on the hustings subsequently.

Let us see how the Conservative party carried out that promise to reduce the expenditure. The average expenditure from 1874 to 1878 was \$23,708,043, the average expenditure from 1890 to 1894 was \$36,700,514; the average increase, taking the last five years with the five years of Liberal Administration, was \$12,992,471, or 54·23 per cent. The average controllable expenditure from 1874 to 1878 was \$12,377,854; the same expenditure from 1889 to 1894 was \$20,631,977, or an increase of \$8,254,123, being at the rate of 66½ per cent. The increase by the Mackenzie Administration over its predecessor was an average of only 46 cents per head, although that Government was saddled with enormous obligations for which they were not responsible. But the Conservative party promised to reduce the expenditure, or at least to keep it stationary, and Mr. Mackenzie did reduce it somewhat during his term of office, the average being \$6 per head during his administration as compared with \$7·54 between 1889 and 1893. Again, with respect to the increase of debt. The average debt during the Mackenzie regime was \$124,496,447. The average debt from 1890 to 1894 was \$240,867,545, an increase of \$116,371,098, or 93 per cent.

The increase of the amount of interest on the debt was not less than 50 per cent. The net debt per head from 1874 to 1878 was an average of \$40·63 as compared with \$60·22 from 1889 to 1893, showing an increase of \$19·59 per head, or an average of 48·21 per cent. The average increase of taxation was 58·27 per cent, the increase of customs taxation 67·40 per cent, and the increase of taxation per head 35·23 per cent. So it was in every particular, as regards the expenditure, the controllable expenditure, the charges and other items. The charges on revenue increased 77 per cent, miscellaneous or "other expenditures," 84 per cent; Civil Government, 57·78 per cent; legislation, 39 per cent; taxation, 58·27 per cent; while our population increased only 26 per cent. These results are clearly shown by the following tables:—