

thieves and boodlers. I may tell the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) that these six provinces which he calls the "shreds and patches" of the Dominion, and which to-night are represented by fifty-seven members in this House, are the hope of this Dominion. To the development of these provinces we must mainly look for the future greatness of Canada. To-night they have little more than one-quarter of the members of this House representing them, but we will not have long to wait to see the time when they will send one-half the members of this House. I have a right, representing as I do a constituency in one of these insulted provinces, to speak warmly of the unjustifiable remarks of the hon. gentleman. In his eyes, the Dominion of Canada is like the vision which the old king Nebuchadnezzar saw: the head of the Dominion, Ontario, is gold, and the feet representing to him the Atlantic and Pacific provinces are part iron and part clay.

An hon. MEMBER. What about the belly?

Mr. WELDON. The belly was silver, and I think that must be the Province of Quebec in the member for South Oxford's dream. I remember the time when the hon. gentleman had very little love for the Province of Quebec, but now he seems to flirt with that little beauty of the Lower St. Lawrence because she is friendly to him, and it is an interesting sight to see that gallant knight throwing off his armour and "capering nimbly in my lady's chamber to the lascivious pleasing of the lute." Let me ask what good has that hon. gentleman ever done for the country; we do not dispute his mental gifts, but of what service has he been to the country? Has he ever a good word to say for his country? Has he ever a helpful suggestion to make? When he was in power, and when above all other things it was his duty to encourage the people, he kept on discouraging them. He was almost as gloomy then as now; the Budget speeches of 1875, 1876, 1877, and 1878 are almost as dismal reading as his recent speeches. The hon. the Minister of Customs and my hon. friend from Two Mountains (Mr. Daoust) remember perfectly well these years when the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) used to spend the first half of his session apologizing for his blundering prophecy of the year before, and the last half of the session predicting that he would not blunder again, and so on session after session renewing the same dismal plaint. I pass away from my observations in reference to that hon. gentleman, and I wish to say a word about the National Policy. We are told by hon. gentlemen on the other side, that the National Policy has won its last victory. We will see about that. They tell us that the National Policy is a failure. We will see about that. To observe the operation of the National Policy as it appears to us in the eastern Provinces, it is convenient to go back to events ante-dating by several years the introduction of that policy. Like many other members of this House, I was born in a country village, and I can remember well the time when, in each of these country villages throughout the Province of New Brunswick there was an appreciably large class of artisans. There were in each village two or three shoemakers making shoes for the whole people of the district; there was a tannery, tanning the hides of all the cattle slaughtered in the whole district and selling them through

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the country; there was a harness-maker with three or four men working in the shop, taking that leather and making it up into harness; there was a carriage-maker getting his planks of birch from the mill, putting them upon the old benches and taking his rip-saw and ripping out his shafts and felloes and spokes. Those of us who saw it remember very well when in each village there were the blacksmiths ironing carriages and sleighs, and ploughs and harrows, and making horse shoes and horse nails. As my hon. friend reminds me, we saw the people shearing their own sheep, and carding and spinning and weaving the wool. Well, some of us left our homes in our boyhood and took no particular note of the strange industrial changes that the country was undergoing, but when we went back twenty years later we found that artizan class had gone from the village. We found that where there were three or four shoemakers making boots and shoes for the people of the village there was now but one cobbler left repairing boots; we found that where there were three or four tanneries, tanning skins, taken from the cattle of the country round about, there was now but one or none.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. WELDON. This may strike those gentlemen opposite as extremely funny, but I think, if they wait a moment my learned friend from Bothwell (Mr. Mills) and my acute friend from North York (Mr. Mulock) will find that I will throw some light on the discussion. We found that the village carriage-maker was having his felloes and his spokes and his shafts brought in by the railway almost ready for use, and where previously there had been three or four carriage-makers, there was now but one person employed putting these parts of the carriage together. We found that the wool was no longer carded and spun and woven at home. What had happened? One of those wonderful industrial changes came over the Province of New Brunswick which had come over the face of the entire world. These articles, which twenty years ago were made in little shops by three or four men, were now almost entirely manufactured by great gangs of labouring men in vast mills in the city. We found that the multiplication of labour-saving machinery had entirely altered the industrial condition of the country, and the drawing out of the village of these fifteen or twenty artisans—not agricultural producers, but consumers of agricultural products—deprived all of these villages of a market of some value. These were the signs that village life, which, twenty years before, was picturesque by reason of these small industries, was declining; these were the changes that were visible, and the effect of these changes became more visible when the American war was over. And when the Minister of Finance of that day was the one who should have noticed these signs and changes, and should have made a provision to meet the disaster which could be seen by observant men, he was not equal to the occasion. It was his fault, as I have often heard of that hon. gentleman, that he thought he knew more than anybody else. He would take his books on political economy, his Adam Smith, his John Stewart Mill, his Ricardo or his Fawcett, home to his study and read them there until he was saturated with his learning and the consciousness of his own learning, and he believed the