

the demand will keep their men employed. I claim that the workmen of this country are greatly assisted and protected by the National Policy. Just as soon as this protective policy is changed, just so soon will the manufacturers of this country find it necessary to close their works or reduce the pay of their men. On the contrary, the policy of this Liberal-Conservative Government has been to secure good wages for the working-people and in every way promote their interests. Let me give you an instance. I remember that in 1877, there was a cargo of furniture shipped from the United States to the city of Hamilton. The consignee rented a large flat, unloaded his goods, and called in an auctioneer. The auctioneer got up on his table and announced to the public that they had just brought over from the United States a large cargo of furniture, bedsteads, sofas, chairs, and all kinds of fancy ware, which they were offering for sale, and which must be sold under the hammer for what it would bring. The auctioneer spoke to the people in this way: "Gentlemen, now is your time, these goods are brought from the United States, and a forced sale has got to be made, so now is the time to invest your money." Such instances as that were frequent during the time the Mackenzie Government were in power. Now, I will show you, Mr. Speaker, how the Americans are trying to crush out our manufactures. Wherever they find only one firm manufacturing any particular line of goods, they take every possible means to run them out and close them up, and so control our market. I wrote to one of the manufacturers in the city of Hamilton in 1891, asking him for information on this subject, and this was the reply he made me:

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My dear Sir,—Yours of 17th inst. received and contents noted. I am always pleased to give you any information that I have in regard to the matter you ask. The facts of the case is this: During the Mackenzie reign, and when the country was suffering from the unequal competition of the American manufacturers, we, along with every Canadian manufacturer, felt the bad effects of the goods that were thrown into this market, and we resolved to get even with one American house that were trying to wipe us out, we being the only competitor that they had in their line—one line of goods in particular, which will show how they were slaughtering goods in our market. I refer to an article in the harness business known by the name of rein-snaps. These were sold in the American market at \$5.50 per gross for $\frac{3}{4}$ —the same size sold in Canada, \$2.50 per gross, F.O.B. at New Haven; of course, freight and duty to add, and which after delivery the goods were away below what they could be made for, and left us out in the cold. We thought, being a large wholesale house, would be the best house for us to order through, and concluded it was better to buy them than make them, and, as we wanted to teach our competitors a lesson, we wanted to buy through them a large lot of the

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lock snaps, and did buy \$1,000 worth. Our arrangement with the firm in Hamilton was for them to buy for us \$1,000 worth of the lock snaps, and we to take them out of bond, paying our own freight and duty, they to receive 5 per cent for their commission. Of course, they did not see what we wanted the goods for, or they would not have entered into the arrangement; they only saw 5 per cent. We made them give us a written agreement, in black and white, they agreeing to fill the contract. Well, when the first shipment came along, for about \$500 worth, they commenced to think something was wrong, and refused to supply any more, but we threatened a suit for damages, and they had to deliver. When we got them all in Hamilton in bond, we paid the firm and then shipped all the goods through to Detroit in bond. So we had the goods in Detroit, less the freight, at \$2.50 per gross. Then we sent our traveller, Charles Carpenter, whom you know to be a staunch Grit, to Detroit to get the goods, and he commenced to place them on the American market, commencing at New York and finishing at St. Louis, selling in small quantities; and their own goods at \$3.00 per gross, or \$2.50 per gross less than they could buy them at home.

I think this is a pretty strong case as showing the way in which the Americans try to crush out manufactures in this country. Now, Sir, I claim that business men generally, other than manufacturers, are benefited by the protection which the National Policy affords. I may mention that I myself have been in the grocery business in the city of Hamilton, and during one period of six years that I carried on a business aggregating about \$300,000, we did not lose \$25 in bad debts. For the last year or two I have been carrying on business to the extent of about \$60,000 a year, and so able are the people to pay for what they purchase, that we have not lost \$5 in bad debts; and I may say that our trade is mostly with farmers and mechanics. That is one fact showing that business men generally are benefited by this policy. The life insurance men also are protected, because many mechanics and workmen in towns and cities are carrying a small life insurance for the protection of their families, and as long as they are able to get work, as they do now under the National Policy, they are able to pay their premiums. Now Sir, the hon. member for East Huron (Mr. Macdonald) referred to the duty on sugar, and said there was a great difference in price between England and Montreal. Well, I have been largely dealing in sugar, and this spring I purchased 125 bags of German sugar, which I found an inferior article to what is sold in this country. It is made from beet root. For \$1 we had to give three pounds more of that German granulated sugar than of the Redpath sugar, but the difference in price is owing to the inferior quality of the former. Now I will refer to the home market. This is a most important subject in discussing the trade policy of the country. Prior to the inauguration of the protective policy it was contended that the result would be to largely