

hand per day 75 cents. Times seemed to grow worse, and in the three months from October to December the amount paid to each hand ran down to 72 cents; and in the month of December it ran down to 69 cents. Now I come to 1885, under the operation of the National Policy, and I find that, for the six months ending December, there were 640 hands employed, receiving \$91,144 in wages; the daily amount paid being \$581, or an average per day of 91 cents to each hand, against 75 cents in 1878. For the three months from October to December, there were 670 hands employed—the number increases as we go on—and the average amount paid was 92 cents. In the last month of the year, 672 hands were employed, and the average amount paid to each was 90 cents. For the six months, the percentage of hands between 1878 and 1885 shows an increase of 57½ per cent., the wages paid an increase of 91½ per cent., and the amount of daily wages to each hand an increase of 21 per cent. In the three months there was an increase of 56 1-5 per cent. in the number of hands employed, of 98 7-10 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, and of 28 per cent. in the amount paid to each hand. In the last month of the year the increase in average wages was 30 per cent. over that paid in 1878. So you will see from the figures given that the people employed by this company are receiving a greater wage per day than they were in 1878. But the hon. gentleman says we have a duty of 30 per cent.

Mr. MITCHELL—I said 35 per cent.

Mr. McLELAN—Well, 35 per cent. In 1878 the price of standard sheeting, weighing 2 85 yards per lb., cost 10 cents, less 7½ per cent. discount, or 26 36 cents per lb., with the average price of cotton 10½ cents. In 1886 that same sheeting cost 6½ cents per yard net, or 18 62 cents per lb., against 26 36 cents per lb. in 1878.

Mr. MITCHELL—What did the raw cotton cost?

Mr. McLELAN—It cost 10½ cents in 1878, and in 1886 it cost 10 56 cents per lb. This shows that, though the hon. gentleman says there is a duty of 35 per cent., consumers are getting their sheetings now for 42½ per cent. less than they paid in 1878, while the raw cotton is not quite 3 per cent. cheaper. That is the result of the operations in that factory, and I am satisfied that it will be shown to be the result all over this country, that men are being employed, that they are receiving greater wages, and that the output of the factories is given at less cost than it was in 1878, when people had a narrow market and could not produce as cheaply as now when they have a larger market. This is what we are doing with the National Policy and that is what we intended; we are giving employment to the people and at better wages, by our protection. It is not the

cotton in its raw state that we want to protect, it is not the ore in the mountain, nor coal in the mine; it is not the clay in the potter's hands that we want to protect; it is the hands that are forming and fashioning the clay; it is the men who dig the ore from the mine, the men who smelt it in the furnace and the factory and form and fashion it into the shape we require to use; it is the men and women who are manipulating the warp and the woof in the cotton factories,—it is these whom we want to protect, and it is these whom we have protected, as I have shown, and for whom we have secured a higher rate of wages. Therefore, the National Policy is no failure, from any point of view you look at it. I have detained the house too long—

Some hon. members—Go on.

Mr. McLELAN—No, I must close, in justice to my hon. friend opposite. I have gone over the Public Accounts, and I have shown the position of affairs in 1885. I have shown that, taking the year by itself and apart from the troubles in the Northwest, we stand very well. I think hon. gentlemen will admit that we stand very well, for they never liked the idea of having a large surplus. I have shown that in 1886 we shall not be so very bad, and that there is a justification for us for putting that extraordinary expenditure which we have had in connection with the Northwest to capital account, because during the years that we have administered the Government of the country, we have paid from revenue a large amount into capital account. It is not the custom with other countries in the world, which have been engaged in wars, to place all the expenditure of those wars on revenue immediately. The United States did not, they could not, they left it to capital account, and it was years before they commenced the reduction of their indebtedness. It was fourteen years before they returned to specie payments. I have shown, I think, conclusively, that there is no great cause for alarm in the amount of burden that is imposed upon this country for interest at present. I have shown that there was, up to 1885, a less rate of interest *per capita* upon this country than existed in 1878, and only 23 cents at the most more than there was in 1867, when the people were poorer and had not the ability to pay. I have shown that, taking out the extraordinary expenditures and those that are not taxation, the increased expenditure from 1867 to 1885 has been comparatively trifling, a little over \$2,000,000. So, sir, I do not anticipate that we shall hear very much more of the increased taxation from \$13,000,000 up to \$34,000,000 or \$35,000,000 in eighteen years. Sir, they have first to convince the man who has engaged in the business and the duties in life, and who is expending \$35 for an outfit and a suit, that he is doing wrong and ought to go back to the