

his party leader, gave a melancholy picture of the position of this country. We, who listened to him, felt that he was destroying all confidence and hope that the people had in the future of this country, that hope and confidence were dead, and we, who listened to the funeral tones were all pallbearers, our faces lengthening as the graveyard fence. He gave his policy to the country the Government proposing innumerable alterations in the tariff. They meddled with every industry in this country and they brought down upon them a continued succession of delegations to protest against their action. Looking at the record, it appears from that hour the trade of this country fell off until it has reached a point \$54,950,138 below what it was in 1873 and added largely to taxation, and yet we find in this Speech before us no sign given that the Government seem to care anything about this decrease of trade, this general depression which hangs over every industry in this country. We had, last session, some intimation that the Government knew there was a depression throughout the various industries of the country. They appointed the celebrated Depression Committee to enquire into the cause of this falling off in trade. They sat throughout the session, summoned leading men from every industry in the Dominion, and what was the result? At the close they reported that nothing could be done by legislation.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Hear, Hear!

Hon. Mr. McLELAN—Yes, they reported that nothing could be done, and taking their report in connection with the sources whence the committee drew its inspirations, its correspondence with Americans, as printed with the report, we get the idea that they attribute the whole infliction to Providence. Turning to page 260, I ask permission to read an extract, and I shall do it as reverently as the position and its impeny will permit:—"A man has got to get up early that expects to get around God." Providence has done everything. No use to legislate, it is impossible for us to touch it. Now, look at what constitutes the report proper, and you find two-thirds of it is filled with an elaborate argument, drawn from American sources, to prove that the American refiner of sugar has no advantage over the refiner in the Dominion. But, no sooner was this decision reached, and it was known nothing would be done to relieve them, than every refinery in the Dominion closed its doors and the refiners walked across the lines to the United States, where they could enjoy the advantages which that

report attempted to prove did not exist in that country. Lately a paper in the commercial centre of Canada said it is all right, nothing can be done for the sugar refining interests of the country, and we had better seek out those who are affected by its destruction and pension them off just as if the honorable gentleman opposite, who is said to inspire that organ of the Government, had walked into the Privy Council Chamber, patted the Depression Committee on the back, and said, "You are right on the sugar question—quite right—sit still Gentlemen, all sit still, enjoy your ease and comfort here; no use your trying to rise early or late to circumvent Providence, better to pension off those injured by the destruction of the business."

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—On what page is the reference to Providence?

Hon. Mr. McLELAN—On page 260. Now, as the proposition has been gravely made in a leading organ of the Government to pension all those affected by the closing of that business, let me endeavor to show the House the enormous addition it is gravely proposed to put to our pension list, and I do not know that I can do this better than by reading the report of a Committee of gentlemen in the city of Baltimore, engaged in the re-organization of the Calvert sugar refinery. The report is found in the *Weekly Review* of June 3rd, 1876:—

"CALVERT SUGAR REFINERY.

The Committee appointed to obtain subscription to the capital stock of the Calvert Sugar Refinery, have successfully completed their work, having secured the necessary capital of \$500,000, and in a short time our sugar interest will begin to show some of the olden activity. The reasons for re-organizing the industry are so lucidly and forcibly given in a circular issued by the Committee that we reproduce it, instead of couching the facts in our own syntax:

REASONS WHY THE CALVERT SUGAR REFINERY COMPANY SHOULD BE RE-ORGANIZED.

Because it will give employment to 180 vessels for inward cargoes, and will furnish this amount of tonnage for outward voyages; encourage our importers to bring goods to the market, and stimulate outward trade by the necessity of homeward supply, thus filling up empty wharves and warehouses, and enabling stevedores and laborers to earn their living who are now a tax on the community for their support, and bring back an old trade to its legitimate market, now being deserted to New York. It will also start one of our most important