

of the people, but that the greater proportion of it would never find its way to the public treasury. During the session just closed, the policy of the Opposition was once more set forth in the amendment moved by Sir John Macdonald in the following words: "That this House is of opinion that the welfare of Canada requires the adoption of a 'National Policy,' which, by a judicious readjustment of the tariff, would benefit and foster the agricultural, the mining, the manufacturing, and other interests of the Dominion—(it was to be a universal blessing)—that such a policy will retain in Canada thousands of our fellow countrymen now obliged to expatriate themselves in search of the employment denied them at home; will restore prosperity to our struggling industries—(I wonder how long they will have to struggle before they are able to stand alone)—now so sadly depressed, will prevent Canada from being made a sacrifice market, will encourage and develop an active inter-provincial trade, and moving (as it ought to do) in the direction of a reciprocity of tariffs with our neighbors, so far as the varied interests of Canada may demand, will greatly tend to procure for this country eventually a reciprocity of trade." Well, what an extraordinary amount of good this wonderful policy would accomplish. (Laughter.) Here we have a revival to some extent of

THE DOCTRINE OF DR. TUPPER IN 1870, that we would be certain to succeed in compelling the Americans to come to terms on the question of reciprocity by a policy of retaliation. This resolution is a singular conglomeration of contradictory propositions. We are told that we require such a judicious readjustment of the tariff as to prevent Canada from being made a sacrifice market, and such a readjustment as will encourage an active inter-provincial trade. This means, for instance, such a tax on sheep as would compel the people of British Columbia to send to Ontario for the sheep they require, instead of purchasing them in the adjoining territory of the United States—such a tax on coal as to compel the manufacturers of Ontario to purchase their coal from the mines of Nova Scotia, instead of from Ohio and Pennsylvania, as they do at present—such a tax on salt as would compel

THE PEOPLE OF NOVA SCOTIA

to purchase their salt at the wells near the town of Goderich instead of obtaining it from the West Indies and Liverpool. A more extreme doctrine of protection than this could not very well be put forward.

Then you have this extraordinary rider tacked on to the resolution—that this is to be done so far as the interests of Canada may demand—which means, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, so far as is necessary to bring about the result aimed at, but which obviously was intended as a loophole to escape from protection should they have the good fortune to defeat us, and we are told that the adoption of such a policy for such a purpose will eventually lead to what?—why, to the establishment of reciprocal free trade—(laughter)—which, when established, will restore that very condition of things which

THE MODERATE TARIFF OF THE PRESENT

was designed to hinder as little as possible. Can there be conceived a more absurd and self-contradictory proposition than this? (Applause.) It is implied that the exchange of products between Canada and the United States at the present time is disadvantageous to Canada; that it is important to prevent this exchange, in order to compel the people of the different Provinces to trade amongst themselves; this interprovincial trade it is proposed to bring about by preventing trade with the United States, and for what purpose is this done? Is it an end to be attained? Not at all; this policy is intended to establish more intimate and extensive trade relations between this country and the United States than exist at the present moment, whereby this inter-provincial trade may be superceded. The complaint of these gentlemen is that there are impediments in the way of this trade, and that the way to remove them is to make them so formidable that they cannot be surmounted. This resolution was not framed with a view to laying down a policy to which practical effect could be given. It was.

NOT FRAMED WITH A SINCERE CONVICTION

that the various propositions embodied in it could be made the basis of any policy upon which the public affairs of this country could be administered; and this being the case, it was not necessary to consider seriously whether its various parts harmonized or not. It was merely intended to please everybody, to catch votes, to secure popular favor, to serve as a sort of ladder by which those who framed it could climb to office, and then having served their purpose it might easily be kicked away. This resolution also contains an assertion that I had well nigh passed by unnoticed; it assumes that there is at the present time a very large emigration to the United States from Canada. This is wholly erroneous. I pointed