

in the United States in order to keep their men ; but now that there is a reduction in the United States owing to reduced prices, our manufacturers, in order to successfully compete, have also to reduce the prices of their products and in some cases the wages of their operatives. But what would have been the condition of those working people and of those manufacturing industries established throughout the country if it had not been for the National Policy ? Why, if it were not for the protective tariff that shields to a great extent our industries and manufactures we would be over-run, and one-half or three-fourths of our factories would be closed within three months. These circumstances give the opponents of this policy a ground for attack on the Government and the policy. Let me say this, that we cannot object to such an attack if made against individual members of the Government or against the Administration as a whole ; but what we do object to is, that the attack is made in such a way as to affect the best interests of Canada, to depreciate our credit at home and abroad, to discourage men from coming to the country and investing their capital here, and to discourage the people of the country by the cries of depression, by cries of distress, by cries of ruin. The leader of the Opposition, when speaking in the House about six weeks ago, said we had the cry of soup-kitchens again. That statement might be very well to make a point ; but was there anything in it of practical significance ? The proposal to which he referred, in London, was made by the editor of a newspaper supporting the Administration, because there were a number of families, as there are every winter in every city of the Dominion, widows and those who are worse than widows, suffering children and many aged and infirm persons, requiring assistance. Is it right to draw the inference the leader of the Opposition did, because benevolent individuals endeavour to provide food for the poor, it may be for some immigrants who, not finding employment in the country in the winter, have reached the cities and require assistance. But does this compare with the condition of affairs in 1878-79 when we, members of Parliament and the citizens of Ottawa, were asked to subscribe to buy bread for hundreds of men, who although they were willing to work, were starving ? Is that the case now in any city of the Dominion ? In regard to the city of London, I have here a statement made by the Mayor of east London about two months ago, or about two or three weeks before the speech to which I have referred was delivered by the leader of the Opposition. That gentleman says that the condition of east London has