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STAND BY THE NATIONAL POLICY.

In the course of speeches made recently in the Bay of Quinte district, Sir John Macdonald advised friends of the National Policy to be prepared to stand by it. He said in effect that the Free Trade party was not dead in Canada yet, but merely sleeping with one eye open, watching opportunity to renew the attack. Now, it does appear as if a good many people, even among those who favor the building up of home manufactures by means of Protection, have of late been giving themselves over to the comfortable belief that the battle is fought and won for good, that the question is settled now, and that the issue of Protection or Free Trade has practically disappeared from politics. Others again, themselves friendly to the N.P., have not hesitated to express, strictly among themselves, the shrewd suspicion that Sir John has really no fear of any attack on Protection, but merely wants to keep up the N.P. as a popular cry, because it is a good thing to beat the other party with. We say emphatically that both these views are grave and serious mistakes. There is a Free Trade party in Canada yet, and it is still hard at work, although not in so open a manner as formerly. And there is really good reason why the man who gave us the National Policy should warn its friends that they had better not forget the fact, and that they had need to keep arms and armour bright for the battles that are yet to come.

As for progress and probabilities with regard to the trade question, we can always refresh our comprehension of the facts by turning to the older and larger record of our American neighbors. The Morrill tariff was adopted nearly twenty five years ago, since which time it has undergone considerable changes of detail, its essential spirit and purpose, however, remaining unchanged. In the interval the expansion of industry, the country's prosperity generally, and the progress made in paying off the public debt, have all been wonderful, in fact without parallel in the history of the world. One might have supposed that, with such a splendid proof by experience, opposition to the policy under which all this had been achieved would years ago have died out. But no, nothing of the kind: the enemies of home industry are still as active and as determined as ever. In both the last two sessions of Congress the Free Trade party attacked Protection with might and main, and did their possible best to loosen its hold on the country. Their method was to attack sections of it in detail, selecting here and there a point which they thought to be weak, or such as might be carried without too much alarming the country. Now, the present Congress, which remains in office until March next, is composed of 184 Democrats and 141 Republicans.

The Democrats have long been called the party of Free Trade, though of late years more and more of its representatives in Congress have been going over to the Protectionist side. However the Free Trade preponderance within the party was still decided enough to secure the election as Speaker of Mr. Carlisle, of Kentucky, a pronounced and even we may say a violent Free Trader. He, again, promptly justified the choice made by selecting for Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee Mr. Morrison, of Illinois, as ardent a Free Trader as himself. The latter followed up with two attempts—one last session and one the session before that—to begin the breaking down of the Protective tariff by effecting breaches in its walls. He failed both times, but not for want of trying. What beat him was the refusal of some thirty-five or forty staunch Democrats to vote against the policy which they knew their constituents approved. But for the fact that in years recently before Protectionist principles had been spreading and taking hold in Democratic constituencies, he would undoubtedly have succeeded in crippling Protection, and that most seriously. However, let it not be forgotten that he and the majority of the party leaders tried their level best to work what destruction they could; no thanks to them that they did not succeed.

This, be it remembered, was after Protection had been for more than twenty years the established policy of the country. Now, shall we consider our National Policy a thing settled and safe against all attack, after seven years only? Not at all a prudent estimate of the situation we should say. The truth of the matter is that Sir John, instead of saying too much about the necessity of rallying to the defence of the N.P., did not say half enough. He might well have said a great deal more, and said it still more emphatically; and we should certainly expect him to do so soon after this.

But for everything which is there must be a reason, so it is said; there can be no effect without adequate cause. May it then be within our compass to light upon the chief cause of the vitality of Free Trade opinion in this Protectionist country of ours? We think it may; if we look in the right place we shall discover the fountain whence flows the perennial Free Trade stream. Let us then fix our eyes on the Mother Country: there is the place to look for the principal cause or causes of various effects which we see in Canada. All our standard works, or nearly all, on the subject of political economy, come from England, and nearly all are of the Free Trade school. Similarly, in the United States Free Traders have taken possession of the colleges, and all the Protectionist occupants of college chairs there may be counted on the fingers of one hand. In any library of much consequence we are con-