

story. If we take the tons of freight carried by vessels in 1878, represented by 3,000,000 tons, as compared with 5,000,000 tons in 1894, this also indicates development. Taking the total tonnage of freight, vessel and railway, we find it aggregated in 1878, 11,000,000 tons, and last year, 26,000,000 tons. If hon. gentlemen will take any of these items they will find that it affords unmistakable evidence of the development going on in the country. And that development is going on under the fostering care of a protective policy or the National Policy, which is so strongly condemned by hon. gentlemen opposite. That development has taken place under the management of the Conservative party, which has been controlling the destinies of this country for the last sixteen or seventeen years. And people cannot shut their eyes to these facts which present unmistakable evidence that Canada has been fairly prosperous during the last sixteen years. Then if we make a comparison between our country and other countries it will be found to be in favour of our own. If we compare our country with the United States, and look back a few years, only two years, we find that in the adjoining republic during the period of five months no less than 565 banks and banking institutions utterly collapsed, that there was stagnation in trade and a condition of the people unparalleled in their history from the earliest period up to the present time. If we take our own country, lying alongside the republic, we will find that our banks are in a stable condition, that the pursuits of our people are carried on peacefully and satisfactorily and that, comparatively speaking, there is peace and plenty in the land. We find our banking institutions are doing well, our commercial interests are fairly prosperous, the number of traders breaking down in business from year to year has been much less in proportion to the population since the National Policy was introduced, and on every one of these lines we must admit the National Policy has been a success. If we look to the employment of our people and compare their condition with that of the Americans we find Canadians are much better employed, and if we compare their condition with that of the working classes in the mother country, that country to which hon. gentlemen opposite are always directing attention and with which they desire to make comparison as being a country having a fiscal policy admirably suited to Canada's needs to-day, we must remember that a few days ago it was reported that over 4,000,000 people there were out of employment, while at the same time our industrial pursuits are being vigorously carried on and are increasing from year to year and our people are fairly well employed. These are some of the evidences that show the condition of the country under the management of the Conservative party,

Mr. SPROULE

which has been in control for the last sixteen years. But when hon. gentlemen opposite are disposed to criticise the policy inaugurated in 1878, which has been perfected from time to time since then up to the present and which is carried out to-day, we believe, in the interest of the country as it was in 1879, we naturally ask, what are they offering the country instead of the National Policy, provided they were returned to power. We can only answer that question by referring to the resolutions which they have from time to time offered to this House as embodying the policy by which they would be guided in the event of being returned to power. I take the various resolutions embodying that policy, and in connection with them there is one significant fact which will occur to any one perusing them, namely, that while hon. gentlemen come to this House and crystallize their policy in a few words, which they call a resolution, and which they present to the House as showing what they would do if returned to power, when they go out into the country and elaborate and explain their policy, telling the people what they would do if returned to power, there is a marked difference between the resolutions and the policy, the resolutions meaning one thing and the explanations of the policy meaning something entirely different. I will read to the House some of the resolutions submitted by hon. gentlemen opposite since 1879. In that year, when the National Policy was introduced, Mr. Mackenzie moved an amendment as follows:—

That the said resolution be not now read a second time, but that it be resolved, That, while this House is prepared to make ample provision for the requirements of the public service, and the maintenance of the public credit, it regards the scheme now under consideration as calculated to distribute unequally, and therefore unjustly, the burdens of taxation; to divert capital from its natural and most profitable employment; to benefit special classes at the expense of the whole community; tends towards rendering futile the costly and persistent efforts of the country to secure a share of the immense and growing carrying trade of this continent; and to create an antagonism between the commercial policy of the Empire and that of Canada that might lead to consequences deeply to be deplored.

What was the policy of the hon. gentlemen opposite in 1888? It is embodied in this resolution, moved by the hon. member for South Oxford:

That this House views with alarm the extremely rapid increase of the debt and taxation of the Dominion, especially in view of the fact that there has been contemporaneously a very great reduction in the debt and amount required for necessary taxation by the United States; and that this House is of opinion that any considerable addition to the debt or taxation of the people of Canada will work very great hardship to the great bulk of the population, and will tend powerfully to place them in a position of great disadvantage as regards the people of the United States, besides seriously prejudicing their chances