

National Policy is the most prodigious abomination that ever cursed the earth; that no farmer can look at it and live; that it carries in its train all species of dire calamities, from the weevil to the Asiatic Cholera; and that our dear Dominion is reduced to the woeful condition of those afflicted countries where "there is nobody living, and there is a funeral every day."

Besieged by such conflicting and extravagant opinions, what are the poor farmers to do? In such a case, there is one authority to which we must appeal. It is within the reach of us all, and it is infallible as far as it goes. What is it? Simply *our own experience*. This is a teacher that seldom deceives. If a farmer wishes to know what are the effects of any policy, or political line of action, upon his calling, his circumstances—his very living, in fact—his own silent experience will explain it to him more clearly and correctly than any power of lungs or language. If he wants to find out how it affects the fishing industry, let him consult the fisherman, whose experience can tell. To ascertain the bearings of the same policy on our mining interests, we must talk to the practical miner, who will give the answer of experience.

I am quite aware that, now and anon, new movements will be set on foot, and great popular Reforms agitated, which may be foreign to our experience. In that event, we should cast about and see if any other country, under somewhat similar conditions, has had experience from which we can borrow a lesson. If we find no experience to fall back upon, we can only endeavor to learn all we can from other sources, such as Official Records; the Independent and moderate Press; politicians of character and mature views; men of education and standing, not in politics; and, generally, all the acknowledged leaders of thought. We must be careful not to postpone our efforts to gain information until an election is coming off. When the country is calm and quiet, when there is no excitement, contention or party strife to cloud and confuse our judgment, that is the time for us to inquire into, analyse, and study the nature, color and condition of our political concerns.