

wrong in not copying that page of the political record of the present Opposition. There was, at least, this comforting thought, that the hon. members of the left could make more noise about the new tariff than they could do harm to its supporters. For all the reproaches, the accusations, the arraignments which they were re-hashing now, had been refuted before and during the last general elections, and everyone knew how successfully. They had started more than one hundred and thirty to go and plead before the great tribunal of the nation, and they had come back about sixty in all, so dreadful was the storm which burst out of the thick and gloomy clouds that five years of misrule had heaped up over their heads. Stereotyped in their majestic indifference, they had thought that nothing could reach the height of their pride, and disturb them in the happy enjoyment of power. But even the celebrated Fort Frances Locks became unable to stop the torrent, which, swollen by the blowing of the popular indignation, washed their exalted position away. Nor was that phenomenal tower of the new departmental buildings high enough to save them from the deluge of their political sins. The hon. the late Minister of Public Works had built it in order to immortalise his name; but he was no architect of national prosperity and greatness, and so, instead of being the pedestal of his glory, it remained as a tower of Babel, which witnessed the confusion of tongues and the dispersion of his party, whose extravagance it would only commemorate. And they did not yet seem to have completely recovered from that confusion of tongues which befel them before their dispersion, for, while pretending to advocate the same politics, they contradicted one another in the most amazing manner. For instance, the hon. the late Prime Minister, in his great and elaborate speech at Sarnia, said :

"There is the pretense that a protection on grain would do you a great deal of good, while it would do you a positive and actual injury, because it would not raise the price of your grain one cent, while it would destroy the trade of the country to a great extent in injuring the canals and milling, and many other ways."

Here was now what the hon. the late Finance Minister, the first-lieutenant of

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the hon. leader of the present Opposition, said on the same point in discussing the new tariff :

"The workingman, above all, will feel these heavy duties. The price of farm produce will rise, and he must pay for the increase."

Let them find, if they could, two contentions more contradictory than these. The leader of the Liberal party said "white," and his first lieutenant said "black," on the very same point. Was it surprising, then, that the Liberal ship, having such pilots to guide her on the political sea, should have been so utterly wrecked, and Mr. Speaker himself had had the cruelty of seizing upon the graving dock of Levis, and thus preventing them from repairing their so badly damaged ship. They did not lack steam, but they had no compass, and a very defective helm. Besides, their commander allowed himself to be attracted by the enchanting but deceitful songs of sirens, and turned a deaf ear to the voice of the people on the shore. And now, here were the survivors of the crew, escaped on flotsam ; here were the *rari nantes in gurgite vasto*. He did not deny their courage, but they used it in the bad direction, in doing wrong, as when they laughed at the repeated warnings of the people, their judges, as well as those of the national Conservative party. The few survivors of that wrecked party, especially the hon. member for South Brant, declared that they wished to go and fight the battle over again. Evidently they were great admirers of the legendary cats of Kilkenny. But it was not likely at all that the people would so soon reverse their judgment of the 17th of September last. Then, what would be the advantage of interrupting legislation, leaving grave public interests still longer in distress, and causing great and useless expense to the country? His hon. opponents had already caused enough public expense, and, before asking still for more, they ought at least to give the present Government time to fill up the large deficit which they had left in the Federal Treasury. He could imagine how uncomfortable they felt on the left benches of the House. They were so fond of power, and expected to retain it so long undisturbed. They had fancied that the whole area of the Pacific Ocean separated them from the cold shades of the