

Cabinet Ministers and two apprentice boys will peddle old taxes for sale about the Dominion. Old taxes for sale, that positively is to be the policy of the hon. gentlemen.

Now that appears to be the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite on the present occasion. They are going to send Mr. Fielding about the country, but it is not stated whether he is to be accompanied by the controllers. They are to cease to be apprentice boys and to become full-fledged ministers. Sir Richard Cartwright says :

The hon. gentleman proposes during the whole year, if he really means what he says, to unsettle all trade, to unsettle all manufactures. Nobody is to know where he stands until the hon. gentleman and his colleagues have completed their pilgrimage, and until a sufficient number of the old taxes have been sold. But, sir, if the hon. gentleman does not mean it, if all this is simply a device to gain time, if there has been a private arrangement with certain protected manufacturers that they need not disturb themselves, that this will all come out right, that it will be managed in such a way that their interests at any rate will not suffer, then I venture to say a greater farce was never played off on any country than the proposition of the hon. gentleman to take a whole year and carefully consider what the Finance Minister ought to be able to advise the country on to-day.

Then another eminent gentleman, who is now Controller of Customs, Mr. Paterson, said :

I have noticed the government supporters have been insulted as I thought in many ways. * * * If there ever was an insult rendered to members of parliament it is rendered to them now in the plan he has just declared he is going to pursue. Why he does not consult the members of this House? * * * But no, he declares in fact that they are not able to guide him in this matter, that he himself will associate with himself three other experts, and that during the recess they will ascertain the state of the country and what the duty of the government is. These four gentlemen will do what? They will make a personal inspection of the different industries of the country. I trust they will do that in a proper manner if they will undertake it at all. Does the hon. gentleman know the task he is undertaking? Does he propose when he says that only to select two or three or a dozen manufacturers and ask their views and learn from them what the government ought to do in the best interests of the whole country.

Mr. Paterson then goes on to show that there are 75,000 odd industries in the country, and if the minister will consult with all of them he will have to visit 252 factories per day. That was the task that Mr. Paterson set for Mr. Foster. Now they propose to send their own Finance Minister round on a similar errand in order that

injury shall be done to nobody in the framing of the tariff. Mr. Paterson continues :

How about getting the views of the men, the artisans who are workers in these factories? Is no time to be taken to have these men, whose interests are just as dear to them, whose rights are to be maintained by a righteous government as much as those of the men who employ them? What about the great agricultural class? Are they to be heard? Are they to have time to present their case? * * * Business men of the country and manufacturers cannot tell what is to be the policy and what changes are to be made by the government. I venture to say the hon. gentleman has unsettled business and has created a feeling of disquiet and fear, if not panic, throughout the length and breath of this Dominion.

This is what Mr. Paterson said less than three years ago with regard to the course then pursued by the Conservative government in delaying the readjustment of the tariff and then proposing to consult the manufacturers and agriculturists and all other classes of the country. If this was true then—if the argument was sound then, it is equally true and sound now. It is very much more in point now, because, if my hon. friend the Secretary of State is right, that the idea is to frame a purely revenue tariff, there will be much greater changes following the new tariff than the readjustment of three years ago, and business men and manufacturers will be affected in a far greater degree by the proposed changes now than they could have been by the changes in 1893 and 1894. With regard to these changes in the tariff, I submit to hon. gentlemen a few figures with regard to the Nova Scotia coal mines. The Finance Minister comes from Nova Scotia. He has been the premier of the Nova Scotia government, and that government has benefited, as a government, from the operations of the National Policy more than any other government in Canada. In 1872 the royalties received by the government of Nova Scotia from coal were a little over \$64,000. In 1878, under the Mackenzie government and the tariff then in existence, this amount had fallen to \$42,859. There was a decrease of \$21,000 in the royalties received by the provincial government of Nova Scotia for coal. In 1894, the amount of royalties had risen to \$209,330—increased by nearly 500 per cent under the national policy. I am sure I speak the opinion of the present premier and members of the Nova Scotia government when I say that they have invariably assured the people down