

forward a pitiful plea for time. It will not do, they say, to pull up the seed to see whether the tree has taken root. Well, Sir, all I have to say is this, that was not the language these hon. gentlemen were in the habit of using eighteen months or two years ago. Then we heard nothing of the necessity of waiting one or two or three or five years before seeing the true result of the National Policy. But besides I say that this plea is utterly at variance with the actual facts of the case. I say that there could hardly by any possibility be an occasion—if there was any necessity, as they averred, for artificially developing the manufacturing industries of the country—when there were better opportunities of doing so than in 1878. Never was capital more cheap or more abundant, not only here, but in England and the United States. Never could raw material or machinery or good buildings be obtained more cheaply than in that year. The whole subject had been thoroughly discussed for some years, and every man who was at all likely to engage in such occupations had ample time to make up his mind how best to employ his money. I must admit that I have been considerably astonished at the almost complete and total failure which has attended their efforts. It is only explicable in one way, namely, that the ground was so fully occupied before that there was little room in Canada for the establishment of new manufactures, unless indeed at enormous cost. That, I believe, is the true explanation of the failure of these hon. gentlemen to establish any new industries, giving employment to any considerable number of men, in spite of the stimulus which their Tariff affords. Of course we all know that some industries will be established from time to time. There is always considerable natural growth in a country like this, and it may well be, after so long a period of depression as that which existed from 1874-5 to the present time, that some development of the manufacturing industries of the country may take place, that they will share with others in the natural improvement which may arise from other causes. But I say apart from this there is no reasonable chance that these gentlemen will be able to establish any considerable number of new industries in Canada unless, as in the case of sugar and

cotton, they are prepared to inflict a most enormous taxation on the whole mass of the people of Canada for the sole benefit of one or two such manufacturers. And I tell them also that, though they may postpone the day of reckoning, that day is not likely to be very distant. I say that the result of the victory of June, to which my hon. friend referred, shows what is the true opinion of a large section of the Dominion. These gentlemen now allege that the case is very different, that their policy was not on trial. What is the reason then that hon. gentlemen bestirred themselves so much; that they went to the chief cities of Ontario before the election, and declared in the most public and emphatic manner that they must regard its result as a verdict for or against them and their policy. And now they tell us that there is a difference. And most undoubtedly, Sir, there is. The verdict of the 17th September, 1878, was a verdict taken in the dark. That of the 5th of June last was taken after the country knew how they proposed to redeem their pledges. One verdict was given by a people, befooled, bewildered and blinded by sophistry and false promises of all kinds; the other, after they had awakened to a true understanding of what these gentlemen meant, after they had begun to perceive the fact that, if this policy was put in force for any length of time, it meant the utter extinction of all chance of establishing a separate national existence on this continent. When they awoke to find that the burdens these gentlemen heaped on us were equal to the whole weight of our existing national debt, and that they had utterly failed in providing employment for any large number of the people, then, Sir, they reversed the unfortunate verdict which the specious promises of these hon. gentlemen had induced them to give. Sir, we take our appeal from the people intoxicated and bewildered, to the people awakening to actual realities. I say that the result of these men's policy is and cannot be anything else than to make us retrograde most seriously in all which most pertains to real civilisation; and moreover, that, as was well said in the petition from the city of St. John, which was presented to the House today, it is a practical violation of the Federal compact, on the faithful maintenance of which the only chance of preserving our