

having been laid aside that the framer looks forward to pushing it, as soon as he has the opportunity, with full confidence in its ultimate success.

—Our own Protectionist Government has been confronted by the same necessity as the McKinleyites, and has met it in the same way. The farmer here, as in the United States, is beginning to see through the imposture and to perceive that he is the sheep whom everybody is shearing. Something must be done to make him think that he has an interest in Protection. In the Tariff Act there was a standing offer to the Americans of reciprocity in natural products. This, and the avowal of principle which it embodies, are now shamelessly thrown over and farm products are subjected to protective duties in the pretended interest of the farmer. Nothing more than this somersault was needed to show that the object of the Government in its fiscal policy is party victory, not the material welfare of the people. Thus politicians play their game and the people pay for it. Protectionism itself was adopted by Sir John Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper manifestly from a political motive. Both of them were for Reciprocity till after the election of 1878. Sir John Macdonald's watchword was Reciprocity of Trade or Reciprocity of Tariffs, implying that he was for Reciprocity of Trade if he could get it. Up to the time of the election he expressly disclaimed Protection, declaring that his policy was not Protection but Re-adjustment. He embraced Protection only when he saw, or thought that he saw, that the manufacturers' vote and the manufacturers' funds would carry elections for him and keep him in power. He will go into the next contest with great advantages on his side; with the influence of a party long entrenched in office, and with an election fund swelled not only by manufacturers' subscriptions, contracts, government grants for works, and such aid as he may draw from the C. P. R., but by the subsidies to Provinces, which a fatal blunder in our