

the purchaser may pay a little more than he will afterwards, but the benefit accruing to the people after a few years will be established. In this country, as in all countries, combinations and monopolies will cure themselves. Since the beginning of the world there have been very few monopolies that have not cured themselves; and no monopolies can live where the conditions are favorable to competition, such as they are in this country. Now I notice, also, that our opposition friends are endeavoring to make a good deal of capital out of the subject of assisted immigration. That is something which was taken up by the *Globe* some time ago, and it has been alluded to by the ex-minister of finance, and by all the lights of the party opposite. It is here that their inconsistency comes in again, and it is just as manifest as in all the other arguments they have made use of against this policy. You would hardly believe that in the depression between 1873 and 1878, when our workmen found it almost impossible to live; that during all that time they brought thousands of mechanics into this country; that during all that time it never occurred to them that it was a shame to bring immigrants into the market, the labor of which was already overcrowded. Yet they stand up to-day and tell this government that they have been doing wrong. Sir, I can see at once that the policy announced by the minister of agriculture here, a few days ago, in reply to the hon. member for Ottawa, was strictly correct. I believe it is time that certain organizations in the old country, and certain charitable institutions, were

given to understand, in some way, that Canada is now large enough to have a pauper population of its own. I believe it would be better if we were to discriminate, even more than we have done, against that class of immigrants coming to this country. The government have shown every desire to do in this matter all that any government can do. We have not only the assurance of the minister of agriculture that discrimination will be made against that class of immigrants coming to this country, and that the attention of the government will be devoted to the introduction of agricultural and farm laborers, but we have something more substantial than that; we have the announcement of the minister of finance, in the interests of the mechanical classes, that prison labor will be prohibited altogether. I say, Sir, in concluding these few remarks, that in every respect the government has done everything that it could do for the working classes, for all the industrial classes and in fact, for all the producing classes of this country. I say that no government could have done more than it has done, and as all governments are liable to err, possibly our own government, in some respects, is not infallible. I think the first minister always declared that public men were liable to make mistakes, and governments were liable to make mistakes. But upon this question of the National Policy it will be to the everlasting credit of the first minister, that from the day he announced that policy to the people of Canada he has remained faithful to this principle; and up to this moment he has shown no sign of departing from it; but, as he stated at the magnificent gathering in Toronto, a gathering of the young men, the old men, and the middle aged, who assembled to do him honor, he has nailed that principle to the mast-head of his party, and is willing to stand or fall by it, and in that statement he voiced the sentiments not only of his followers in this country, but, in my opinion, of the large majority of the people of Canada.