

but for those accidental circumstances, the state of Canada this winter would be the most deplorable that was ever known. There would have been no precedent for the distress which would have existed. Why, Sir, even as it is, in this city, what is the state of affairs? Almost every second house and shop is empty, and "To Let" is found everywhere. It is admitted by Government papers that there is an unusual amount of distress in the city. I know it is so in other cities, and we are told to go to the soup-kitchen, to rejoice in the fact that a Protectionist Government is in power. My hon. friend the Minister of Finance will attend meetings of manufacturers and their workmen at comfortable places or of temperance gatherings and weep pathetically, as Job Trotter alone could weep, for the miseries that existed before he came into office, and afterwards rejoice over his success in imparting renewed confidence and in procuring more employment. Now, Sir, I say there has not been more employment procured. I say that at this moment there is a much larger degree of distress than there was at the time the late Administration went out of office. I say that the state of trade over the country is infinitely worse than it was at that time. We have the extraordinary fact also that, while in 1878 the failures in Canada showed as the amount of liabilities \$23,908,000, in the year just passed, under hon. gentlemen opposite, the failures have reached \$29,347,000. Now these failures represent manufacturers as well as traders; they represent all classes that come under the Insolvency Laws. I know, as a fact, that at least half the manufacturers in the country have been seriously injured by the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. We are called upon to rejoice that the trade of the country has, on the whole, been satisfactory, although it is known that the hon. gentlemen imposed a taxation which should have yielded for the State some \$7,000,000 for the year; and he has now to confess that he has actually received nothing from the new duties except what is represented by the burdens upon the necessaries of life, breadstuffs and coal. We are promised, I understand,—at least the hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. McLeod) announced during his election campaign, that he had the authority of

the Minister of Railways for stating—that the coal duties would be reconsidered with a view to their increase; and we are told to-day by the hon. member who moved the Address so well, that the coal question should and must receive consideration, and he is willing to have the price of coal increased to his own city of Halifax, as well as to us poor people in Ontario, who must pay the duty upon every ton of coal we consume. I say, Sir, that the state of trade, instead of having improved, has very much retrograded. I blame the hon. the Minister of Finance for this, because he obtained his position in St. John by representing that there was to be no increase, but merely a readjustment of the Customs duties. I congratulate the hon. gentleman that he found so many as forty-six persons to give him a dinner under these circumstances. It must have been very pleasing to him. The hon. gentleman complained in his speech there that I had spoken of him as the lying spirit sent forth to delude the people. I referred to a well-known incident in ancient sacred history. There is just this difficulty in the simile, however, that I can nowhere find the representative of the angel that sent him forth, angelic qualities being scarce in that quarter. In another address which the hon. gentleman made in his own Province, he pointed out that what was really to be looked to in New Brunswick was the fact that it was becoming, or would become, a large manufacturing centre for the West. Manitoba was to be filled up immediately; the waste places in the Province of Ontario were also to be filled up by an emigration induced by the liberal policy of the present Administration. New Brunswick was to manufacture all the goods that this vast population would require. I venture to tell the hon. gentleman that New Brunswick has no peculiar facilities that I know of, for manufacturing purposes, beyond other Provinces, and that it is impossible for a large class of manufacturers to exist at all, except where there are large cities and a large population from which to draw the class of workers that are required. This has led to the failure of several manufacturing industries in various parts of Ontario. It was found impossible for one manufacturer to live in the town of Windsor, because he