

poorer than it ever was before. For the five months subsequently, the Opposition organs endeavoured to show, when the prosperity of the country was so apparent that it could not be gainsaid, that it was not the result of the National Policy. Dun, Wiman and Company published a statement showing that the bankruptcies in Canada had been greater last year than ever before. Then the cry was again raised that the country was going to ruin. Here was something to build an argument on. It was amusing to read the varied statements made from time to time with reference to the Tariff. I will give you a sample. In one of the leading papers, which hazarded the statement that this policy was enriching the manufacturers at the expense of the masses, appeared a quotation of the price of rubber overshoes, to show how the prices had been increased and the manufacturer enriched; and yet the same paper in the same issue called attention to the fact that 2,000 pieces of Canadian woollens had been bought the day before at 30 per cent. less than any price ever before known in the history of Canada. Such is the inconsistent line taken by the Opposition. As to bankruptcies, it was stated in the House the other night that these increased bankruptcies were the result, to a great extent, of the general impression on the part of the people that the law would be repealed. The result of that impression was that the man who had been struggling along with his head just above water, took advantage of the law. On seeing the prospect of improved times, they came to the determination to obtain relief from these liabilities and start anew on the flood tide of prosperity. In the United States, in 1878, the same fact was noticed. Just at the commencement of prosperous times there were more bankruptcies than during the previous years. It is to be deplored that our magnificent country, with its grand prospects, should be decried, and its credit damaged for party purposes. The hon. leader of the Opposition stated that, if it had not been for the good crop last season, the country would be in a worse position than it ever was before—is it not in a better position than it was a year ago? Can you look anywhere throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion and say it is not so? Take the im-

porters who, from their position, would naturally have less sympathy with this policy, and with this Tariff, than those who are more directly benefitted by it, and you will find, universally, both in wholesale and retail lines, that in the last six months the general trade of the country has been largely improved and increased. If you go to the farmer, you will find that he recognises the improvement in prices for the articles he has for export, or for home consumption in the home market. You may go to our shipping interest, and you will find that during the last five or six months every one has a more hopeful feeling than they had before. Take the lumber interest of the Ottawa Valley and other parts of the Dominion, and mark the change. You will find every man, who is engaged in that business in the city of Ottawa, in the west, or down east, doing double work, making sales ahead, and with a different, a more buoyant, spirit than he had twelve months before. I care not in what part of the Dominion you go, you will find a more hopeful feeling and more confidence; and, notwithstanding all these evidences of prosperity, the hon. gentlemen of the Opposition will blind their eyes to the facts and state that the country is not prosperous and are doing everything in their power to prevent emigrants from coming into the country to settle and invest their capital, and help to promote the prosperity of the country. I think it is scarcely necessary for me to enlarge upon this point, but I have no fears for the future of the country. Its prosperity I feel is assured. I do not say that it is all the result of the National Policy. I agree with my hon. friend (Mr. Mackenzie) that there are other causes affecting it, but I assert this—that the day after this policy was adopted in this House, in leading commercial centres and throughout a large portion of the Dominion of Canada, there was an entirely different feeling, a more hopeful feeling than there was the day before the policy was announced. And I believe, from personal observation and indisputable evidence, that 10,000 men are now occupied in the country who could get no employment before; and, what is more, the returns of the last six months, adding the three millions and a half of imports of the previous year, which clearly