

utterances in 1872, merely put forward to influence the elections, it might be held that the present policy of the right hon. member for Kingston and his party was one of retaliatory tariffs, and that they were to be guided in their legislation, not by the views of what might be necessary for the interests of Canada, not by any conviction that our present tariff might need amendment from time to time, but by the policy adopted by the United States; and, when Americans imposed duties on our goods entering their country, we should levy like duties, not only on goods coming from the United States, but also on those imported from the Mother Country. The right hon. member for Kingston, in the course of his speech at Stanstead, during his Eastern Townships tour, said:

“Why, gentlemen, you know Canada, from east to west, lies nearly in the same degree of latitude, and we do not produce a great variety of crops. From the Atlantic to the Pacific the country is subject to the same climatic influences. But the United States, extending from the lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, forms a variety of climate. If wheat fails in the West, corn may succeed in the Middle States; and if both wheat and corn fail, rye and cotton may succeed in the South. In Canada, however, if, by an unfavourable season, the crops are scanty, we are without such resources, and then the farmers of the United States pour in their products upon us, and we are defenceless. You, the farmers, who, in an ungenial season, might get some recompense for scanty crops in the enhanced prices they would bring, find that hope gone from you. Even the little harvest the storms have left you find valueless when the produce of the Western States is poured into the markets of the Dominion. Shall we suffer in this way? Shall we not say, if we have a short crop, our people shall consume it, and pay us a fair price for it? If we have a large crop, let us not have our own markets and the markets of Europe only, but let us say to the United States:—‘We allow you to send the produce of your country into our markets, let us have the same privilege, and send ours to yours.’ That is the policy of the western portion; that is the policy which my friends are going to fight for to the death.”

That was the policy which the hon. member for Cumberland, in 1874, alluded to as an outrage on the great consuming population of the country. At the very time when our people were most distressed by want, when

famine might be stalking through the land, when the price of bread might have risen to famine rates, the hon. member for Cumberland, who in 1874 was so deeply concerned lest anything said by the Finance Minister should indicate that the agriculturists required Protection, because it would affect the great consuming population, was prepared to assist in carrying this policy into effect. The right hon. member for Kingston further said:

“At the end of my long political career, the last effort I am going to make, the culminating struggle before I retire into private life, is to attempt to get Canada for the Canadians; to secure a national policy; a policy by which we will be able to get a fair day’s wages for a fair day’s work, by which we will not be trampled upon and ridden over as we have been in the past by the capitalists of a foreign country. We will say to the United States, ‘We are Free-traders, we took our cue from the Mother Country, we did not recognize the difference between the circumstances of an old country and a new one like ours; we will pay you the compliment of saying we were wrong and you were right, and we will do to you as you do to us.’”

Having regard to those declarations of the right hon. member for Kingston and his speech of last night, it was manifest that his policy, enveloped as it might be in a cloud of words, was one of retaliatory tariffs, and of exasperating fiscal regulations; a policy which would inaugurate a war to the knife against one of our largest customers and our nearest neighbour; a policy of which he (Mr. Dymond) hoped he never would see the beginning, but which, if entered upon, no one could pretend under any circumstances to predict the end. The right hon. gentleman having spoken in favour of Protection, pure and simple, in his speech; having repudiated entirely the declaration he once made in the House, “I am a Free-trader;” having done his best to prove, through his organ, and to persuade manufacturers that they would not be benefitted but be injured by a reciprocity treaty with the United States; having seen all that, they must hold the right hon. member to this exposition of his policy, impotent as it would be for good, and redolent of mischief. Having then got him face to face with that proposition, they found the right hon. member for Kingston