

represent, but which, I may say, for the information of the hon. gentleman, I entered an utter stranger, hardly knowing a single soul therein, on the 14th October, and left it in eighteen days their representative, by a majority of four hundred votes. I tell the hon. gentleman that this policy of his, dangerous under any circumstances, is likely to be most peculiarly dangerous in our case. Were we an isolated community, like Australia, were we separated by five or six thousand miles of sea from any neighbouring country, then I could understand that such an experiment might be safely played out without risk of violent interference. But what is our position? Every man here knows that Canada is a country which we have found great difficulty in consolidating. Every man knows that, from one end of Canada to the other, there are many discordant elements; that we comprise within our borders large classes who differ in race, differ in religion, differ in language, differ in almost every way in which civilised men can differ from each other. You know that there are numerous conflicting interests, that there are great geographical difficulties to be overcome, that our Eastern Provinces are separated from our central ones by a large track of uninhabitable country, and that, when you go westward again, you have a very long stretch of similar country, which, for many years, cannot be bridged over by a railway, and that we are dependent for the means of keeping up communication with the North-West, at least for one half of the year, on the privilege of passing through a foreign country. And, under all these circumstances, knowing full well that our political position is, at the present moment, of a most precarious character, you are entering on a policy which seems purposely contrived to exasperate all these difficulties, and to split our new Confederation into a thousand pieces. Do not let any man imagine that only mere pecuniary results are involved in this tariff. These may be affected to a great degree, but I tell the hon. gentlemen opposite that vastly more important results are involved here. If this country has come to that pass that it requires to be governed by a system of paternal rule, then, I say,—and if I could

get at the real sentiments of the hon. gentlemen on the other side, they would agree with me in that,—then, I say, that this country is not fit for a Federal system. I say that our whole system is on trial, if you choose to put this tariff into force. I know that, in time past, a great deal of the clamour which arose against the late Government arose really from ignorance; arose from the people not having been trained—yes, from ignorance in the House and out of the House. I say, a great deal of it arose from this fact, that our people were untrained, unaccustomed to a Federal system; that they did not know how to separate responsibilities attaching to the Local Governments and to municipalities from those attaching to the Dominion of Canada. And, I say, it was largely from overlooking these facts, that a great deal of unjust clamour arose against us because we were unable to produce prosperity which, for our own sakes, if for no higher considerations, we must have been most earnestly desirous to secure. I must remind the hon. gentleman of the manner in which he and his colleagues obtained power. I am willing to admit that, though they have certainly not redeemed all their pledges, although they could not, by any possibility, redeem them all, I am willing to admit that they have gone great lengths in particular directions. But all who paid any attention to or took any part in the political discussions of the last few months, will remember the magnificent professions that were made on the part of the hon. gentlemen and their followers. We were told that, if they could get back to power immediate confidence would be restored, the price of stocks would go up, the price of grain would rise, factories were to be established in every village, the United States were to be terrified into submission, and, failing that, we were to have reciprocity of trade or reciprocity of tariffs. Sometimes a presumptuous mortal dared to ask how all these good things were to be paid for, and suggestions were made that if, as the hon. gentleman proposed to do, you put prohibitive tariffs on all goods which could be manufactured in Canada, and did not increase the tax on the goods that cannot be manufactured here, there would be serious