

her three hundred years of high tariffs, coupled with her own natural wealth, centred in England; and their circumstances being different, as they are yet weaker than she, they cannot afford as yet to compete with her on equal terms. They must keep up a tariff armament because, unprotected, their markets would fall an easy prey to her superior wealth and strength. Even the United States, three thousand miles away, feeling her home markets insecure against England, maintains a high tariff. Now, all the reasons advanced by the nations named for protecting themselves commercially against the stronger power are particularly true when applied to Canada. She is a country of five millions. Our only neighbor is an enterprising and aggressive nation of sixty-five millions of people. Can it be expected that our people can hold their own against such a powerful rival without Protection? If so, then in protecting themselves against England's superior power, France, Germany, the United States, and all the rest have gone mad, their statesmen are blind, their experience a chimera, and the armament of the weaker against the stronger a monstrous doctrine! But what was our own experience of Free Trade? We should never forget that, for, after all, experience is the test. The history of our industries from 1873 to 1878 tells the tale. Many were utterly wiped out of existence by American competition. Our foundries and rolling mills were closed. All our manufacturers suffered, and through them the mechanic whom they employed, and through him the farmer and storekeeper who clothed and fed him. The volume of our trade fell from \$218,000,000 to \$152,000,000. The bankruptcies in 1876 alone numbered 1,588, with liabilities amounting to \$31,346,154. Though the Government raised the customs taxes from 15 to 17½ per cent. deficits were an annual occurrence. Meanwhile, from the United States, the surplus products of the loom, mine, workshop and farm came pouring into the country to the despair of the Canadian manufacturer, mechanic, and farmer, while our products were debarred from the American market by a high tariff. Surely such an experience should prevent all

thoughtful Canadians from desiring a return of Free Trade, which would certainly bring about a similar condition of affairs.

### **The Story of Life Insurance Premiums.**

Grit organs are forever declaring that the National Policy has been grinding down and impoverishing the people of this country, and yet, strange to say, that with all their alleged impoverishment they voluntarily contribute annually about four times as much for life insurance as they did during the time of Grit rule. The following are the premiums paid for the five years of the "Reform" Administration:

1874 .....	\$2,844,410
1875 .....	2,882,387
1876 .....	2,803,310
1877 .....	2,647,407
1878 .....	2,610,677

It will be noticed that these voluntary payments went down, down, down like everything else during that historical period. Now, behold the contrast! The following are the premiums paid for life insurance during the last five years under the National Policy:

1890 .....	\$8,004,151
1891 .....	8,447,702
1892 .....	9,070,354
1893 .....	9,632,799
1894 .....	9,909,275

Payments made voluntarily four times as large and going up, up, up at the rate of nearly half a million dollars a year! And all this while the people are being "blighted, blasted, ground down and impoverished by Tory misrule!" Can anyone, in his senses, imagine such a thing?

### **The Bushel of Wheat.**

Cheap as the bushel of wheat is, it will do more for the farmer to-day than it did in 1878. It will go further towards paying for his reaping machine to-day than it would in '78; it will pay a larger proportion of the price of his mowing machine now than it would then; it will pay as great a part of the price of his wagon now as it would then; the same with the price of his buggy; it will buy far more sugar to-day than it would in '78, and far more cotton; it will go further in paying for a suit of clothes