

Policy, no doubt there was a great deal of delusion and strong feeling evinced, stimulated, as it was in high quarters, by the statement that there was a great deal of money to be made by investments in North-West lands, and new industries; a good many were deluded and were unwise or wise enough to make such investments, and the consequence was that there was a good deal done in the way of building, and much stimulus given to manufacturing industries; there was an undue and unhealthy stimulus given to certain lines of industries. In the midst of all this, the election was held, and the issue was not fairly put before the people—I am speaking of the last election. The liberties of the people were largely taken from them, and a fair and honest expression of opinion could not be got in consequence of the Gerrymander Bill. That was an act of the Government which savored of despotism. It restricted the liberties of the people still more than any policy they had inaugurated, and yet the time for holding the election, and the manner in which they guarded against the free action of the people in the matter indicated that they themselves were skeptical as to the result of their policy. There were a great many other considerations and influences in the progress of events in this Canada of ours, which certainly placed in the hands of the Government of the day a great deal of power, provided they chose to use it in an unscrupulous manner. The arrangement with the Canadian Pacific Railway and the enormous allowances made to it, and the perquisites which belonged to it, practically yielding up the country to that corporation, in some degree made us all subject to its behests. Then the subsidizing of a number of other railways, using up the large revenues of the country, which the people are compelled to pay in addition to what they contribute to the manufacturers; using up the revenues which this very restrictive tariff has enabled the Government to secure; they have subsidized railroads and appointed officials everywhere. With our small population, the percentage of officials, place-hunters, contractors, etc., is very large relatively to the number of voters. Then of course there is in the hands of the Government the great public domain, the timber limits, the land grabs, as they are sometimes called, colonization com-

panies, which I believe have been denounced by the organ of the Government as being composed of fools; the cattle ranches, the coal limits and the contracts in connection with public works, the enormous amount of money in Dominion notes—\$1,000 notes available for any special purpose—bribery brigades, commissions, negotiable and non-negotiable; there is also the mighty influence of all those protected magnates who have an idea that they not only have got a lot of money out of the policy, but may get more. It is not surprising, looking at all these appliances, that the Government are maintained by a system which is like a despotism—a species of bossism or one-man power. We can see every day what is passing around us, and the leaders vainly imagine that they can so dam up the liberties of the people that there can be no outbreak; but there will be an outbreak certainly, and all this will come to an end. They may use their resources in such a way as to restrict the liberties of the people; but in the end it will surely result in their overthrow, or if not I despair of the future of Canada. I wish now to make some reference to the report of the Factory Commissioners about which the inquiry was made by the hon. member from Victoria, and the speech which he made I must say was confined to that particularly and was an able and proper one, about which I have very little to observe; but he says in one part of his address “that some of the newspapers of the Liberal party have endeavored to impugn the accuracy of the report and neutralize its effects in the country; but that they had not been able to place their finger on one figure, or group of figures, and say that it is wrong.” With reference to that particular statement of my hon. friend I take issue most distinctly. His enquiry relates to the circulation of this book, which purports to be, on the back of it, a report on the manufacturing industries of Canada. That is not the fact, because a very important province, British Columbia, is not mentioned in it at all. Surely in the province of British Columbia under the National Policy there should be some manufacturing industries.

HON. MR. MACDONALD—The commissioners say that they have not gone over the whole country.