

British public, and not for the benefit of Canadian farmers? Then our friends opposite and their policy will be wiped out, and they will find just where their arguments have landed them.

But, Sir, hon. gentlemen opposite are never tired telling us about the effect of the National Policy in building up our industries. Now, I do not propose to deal with the broad statements about what has been done. I think it is wiser to start the machine, and see how it operates, where you know the facts. These gentlemen forget, when they make these statements, that there were active, energetic, and successful manufacturing industries in Canada long before the National Policy was inaugurated. Sir, I remember in my own town that in 1873, just at the time the Mackenzie Government was called to take power, we had a cotton mill, one of the earliest cotton mills started in this Dominion. It had been operated since 1859, and it had gradually grown up and developed with the country. At that time, the former proprietor died, and it was deemed necessary to enlarge the enterprise, and the public were appealed to take stock in it. The stock was extended then to \$400,000; and this is the statement that was made as to the result of the operation of that cotton mill in previous years:

The mills, with their present capacity, are now earning upwards of 12½ per cent, or more than 8 per cent upon the proposed capital of \$400,000.

That was in 1873, under a 15 and a 17½ per cent tariff. Well, Sir, the National Policy came into operation, and what is the result to-day? That cotton mill has been closed for several years, the \$400,000 capital has been dissipated, and not one dollar of it has been returned to the original investors. To-day, the men who, on the faith of the National Policy, and the development connected with it, invested their little savings in that town in building little homes for their future comfort, have had to sell these at a sacrifice, and, in the majority of cases, have left the country to secure employment and earn a livelihood for themselves and their families. What was the position of the Ontario Cotton Mill at Hamilton? I speak of what I know. A friend of mine, a gentleman that I know personally, lost \$20,000 in that venture out of \$30,000 he invested, and he was only one man. Another gentleman that I know had a couple of thousand dollars in another mill. We have heard a good deal about what these mills are doing for the employment of operatives. If you go back to the census of 1891, you will find there is a cotton mill in a town about twenty or thirty miles west of where I live, which is returned as employing 180 hands, and as paying out \$42,000 a year in wages. When you divide that up amongst the hands, it comes to the magnificent figures of \$4.25 each, per week.

Mr. BAIN (Wentworth).

Last year, under the benign influences of the National Policy, even that pittance of wages was twice reduced, under the blessings of the administration of this cotton ring that now controls that mill. Do you call that a blessing to the operatives of Canada? Is that the way the National Policy was to give employment and develop the country? In the same town there is a winey mill that figures in the census of 1891 as employing 100 hands and paying in wages, \$20,000. It has been standing idle, and is closed. The \$20,000 is no longer paid, and the operatives are scattered to find a living as best they can. But this mill figures regularly in the returns of the industries that the National Policy has brought into existence. Now, let me draw your attention to another result of the National Policy, as applied to the cotton industry. Our cotton mills in Dundas, so far as my recollection goes, went under the control of the Dominion Cotton Company, and I think their annual report of two years ago shows that the company controlled ten mills, scattered throughout this Dominion. What is the effect of that centralization of the cotton industries on the operatives in these various mills? I can speak again from personal observation. One mill, after running four days in the week for two or three years, finally ceased to run altogether, under the blessings of the National Policy, the operatives had to seek employment elsewhere, and they went to another mill under the control of this company. They left their families in their little homes in my town and went there to work. They tried it for a month or two, and what was the statement they made? They said, the wages are so miserably low that by the time we have paid for board, we have nothing left with which to maintain our families away from us, and to meet the increased cost due to the different members of the family not living in one household. What became of them? They had either to accept the pittance offered, or to take the other alternative and leave this country and go to a foreign land to earn the bread that the National Policy denied them. What has been the result as applied to the Dominion Cotton Company? They simply closed down the mills and regulated the output according to the consumption. But they exercised mighty good care to have the benefit of the full protection that the National Policy gave them. What is the amount of their last dividend? Here is a quotation from one of the Montreal papers of only last month:

In spite of the bad year, the Dominion Cotton Company has earned \$320,000, or 10¾ per cent nearly, on their full capital of \$3,000,000. When it is remembered that at least half of this capital is watered, the actual earnings are very large.

And that amount is wrung out of the operatives because they simply have to take the