

speeches seem to indicate on this question. I know it is not possible for any Government that could come into power in this country to adopt a protectionist policy, for if you cease to raise a revenue by an impost on articles imported for use into the country you must raise it in some other way. Now, the man that goes before the people and asserts that it would be for the welfare of the country that such duties should be imposed as are of a protective character must admit two things. He must admit in the first place that the object is to stop the foreign trade from coming into the country, for if he does not he will not enlarge the market of our manufactures. If he stops these goods from coming into the country he must admit that he also stops the duties which are levied on these goods. The first time you hear one of these gentlemen speaking of imposing protective duties, ask him how he proposes to raise a revenue. (Hear, hear.) It must be patent to the mind of every one of you that the effect of a protective policy would be in the first place to destroy our revenue, and in the next place to raise the price of everything the workingmen consume; and when I say workingmen I embrace the entire farming population and nineteen-twentieths of the inhabitants of the great cities—in short nearly all our population. We have here no great aristocratic power, no great land owners apart from those who are practically workingmen. We are all workingmen, and we have all to bear our share of the burdens imposed upon us; we have no royal road to wealth—no means of access to a mine of wealth, which would enable us to pay the amount of taxation required; and I venture my reputation, whatever it may be worth, as one who has studied the affairs of the State, that there is not a man at this moment in the Dominion of Canada in the Opposition ranks who will propound a policy by means of which we can prohibit foreign goods and raise a revenue at the same time; and if they can propound such a policy they are cleverer men than I take them to be. (Cheers.)

#### Dishonesty of the Opposition.

But I believe that the cry of protection is simply a delusive one to accomplish a present purpose. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) The Opposition have utterly failed to establish one single charge which their newspapers and their speakers have in the most cowardly manner insinuated against the Government—(cheers)—and knowing that they could not establish any charge which would alienate the confidence of the electors, they raise the cry of protection. But let the elections once be over—(hear, hear)—then, Sir, you will find that Providence has come to their aid, and given them a good harvest, and they will say, or something else will be said to happen, "The country is not in the same condition now that it was when these men were in. Protection then did seem necessary, but we think, upon the whole, we can get on very comfortably as we are without it." (Hear, hear, and laughter.) A personal friend of mine in the city of Montreal, who is a very strong protectionist, was arguing the question with me one day, when I said to him, "Now, Mr. G., will you tell me where you are to get your revenue after you get protection?" He could not tell me. "Well," I said, "you must levy direct taxation; you must send your collectors around to collect from every man his share of the taxation. Now tell me, Mr. G., how long would a Ministry live in Quebec if they adopted that policy?" "Well, I suppose," he said, "about