

legitimate results of work, and of the exertions of intelligence. In his humble judgment, such a policy could be of no avail to remove depression, and restore prosperity to a nation. Depression would come and go, at certain periods, in spite of any legislation, whatever it might be. What did they see to-day? Depression in Canada with a revenue tariff; depression in the United States with a Protective tariff; depression in England with a Free-trade tariff; depression the world over, despite all tariffs, either Free-trade, revenue or Protection. There was no doubt that, at some future day, though it might be far distant yet, depression would disappear, and we would see a return of prosperity. It would come, not as a necessary result of this tariff, but as a logical consequence, as the irresistible result of the natural course of things, notwithstanding any impediment or obstacle thrown in its way. This prosperity, which they all hoped for and expected, would not be confined to Canada because we should be enjoying a Protective tariff; it would shine as well upon other countries, and wherever the commercial crisis had been felt. It would be restored to Free-trade countries as well as to Protectionist countries,—to England as well as to the United States; but in England the restoration of prosperity would be accomplished without the interference of a Protective tariff, whilst in the United States it would be done, he ventured to say, in spite of Protection. So it would be in regard to Canada, where a return of prosperity would take place independently of this or any other tariff that might be imposed upon the country. Some of his hon. friends from the Province of Quebec had expressed great confidence in Protection, and no doubt they hoped sincerely that the application of this system would promote the interests of our country. He regretted sincerely to be compelled by his convictions to dissent from those hon. gentlemen. He had no faith in Protection, and the more he had considered this system, the more odious it had appeared to him. He looked upon it as unjustly increasing the burden of taxation upon the great mass of consumers for the benefit of a few manufacturers; and, in dealing with this question, he held that the interest of

the consumer must be constantly kept in view, because that interest coincided and was in perfect harmony with the social or general interest. A Protective duty was a tax imposed upon the foreign produce imported into this country; but that tax, it should never be forgotten, unavoidably fell upon the national consumer, who was no one else than the taxpayer who contributed to the public revenue. To impose Protective duties was, in his humble opinion, the same as telling that taxpayer: It is true that you find the burden of taxation heavy, yet we will still increase the price of nearly everything you consume; it is true that the Government takes a portion of your revenue, yet we will still so readjust the tariff as to give another portion to monopolists. Anyone who had given serious attention to this matter understood very well that, whilst a Protective tariff threw some money into the Public Treasury, it had also the effect of taking larger sums from the pockets of the consumers, and of throwing them into those of the manufacturers. But he must not forget, here, that some hon. gentlemen opposite had expressed the opinion that the consumer did not pay the duty, but that, on the contrary, it was paid by the producer, and that the Finance Minister, by means of this tariff, would realise large sums of money from the Americans. His hon. friend from Quebec county (Mr Caron) had also given utterance to the same opinion, when he said that we paid 15c. duty to the Americans for every bushel of barley we sold them. He must confess this was a most admirable doctrine; but it was as unsound and absurd as it appeared admirable. If this doctrine was true, this tariff was insufficient, and we should have an average one of at least 50 or 60 per cent., so as to enable the Government to realise from foreign countries all the money they wanted to meet our public expenditure, and relieve entirely our people from any taxation; it would enable the Government to collect from foreign people all the money they wanted for the construction of the Pacific Railway, and of our other great public works, without their being obliged to borrow a single dollar; a stringent application of it would enable the Government to realise from