

of the policy which seeks by protective duties or artificial inducements to force industry out of its natural channels into channels selected by a wisdom superior to that of nature as more advantageous to the people. Fallacies do indeed die hard, at least if any one has an interest in their life. More than a century has passed since the appearance of Adam Smith, and of his first great pupil, Pitt; the soundness of his doctrines has been proved by an increase of wealth in the country which has adopted them, passing anything of which their author can have dreamed, and eclipsing all the marvels of commercial history. Yet here is a Canadian minister, in the full blaze of New World intelligence, reverting to the policy which ruined benighted Spain. What arguments can be used to those who imagine that they are benefiting a nation of farmers by laying a duty on agricultural implements? What arguments can be used to those who imagine that they add to the wealth of the country by calling men away from the field or the lumbering station, to which nature has sent them, for the purpose of producing pig iron, and perhaps some day pineapples? What arguments can be used to those who when there has been a run of good harvests and a revival of the lumber trade, as well as of commerce throughout the world, can ascribe the return of prosperity, not to that, but to the increased burden of taxation? Sir Leonard Tilley rightly declined to produce the letters which he had received from his commercial correspondents; but in those letters, no doubt, would be read the true history of the modifications in the tariff. Each of the manufacturers has been demanding higher protection for his own industry; in other words, an increase of his private gains at the expense of the public. The whole order will soon form a Ring, and the control of parliament and the people over taxation will be lost. To the policy of fostering infant industries in itself and as a matter of principle, no reasonable objection can be made: the worst of it is that the infants are apt to remain infants for ever, in their craving for maternal support, while, for the purpose of extortion, they acquire the strength of men.