

mines; and what a great number of people have been employed in this relation compared with what used to be the case. While a great deal of money has been paid out to the laborers of the mines and to the sailors on the coal vessels, we have encouraged our industries by smelting iron in this country, by which the consumption of coal will also be increased. We have also to remember that this policy has increased the construction and extension of railways in this country. At the last General Election it was sung out on every platform that the price of iron had been increased as well as the price of nearly every other article consumed by the people. On several occasions in my own riding I asked blacksmiths how much they now paid for their iron, and they told me 80 cts. I asked them how much they paid for it before the inauguration of the National Policy, and they said \$1, so there is a reduction of 20 cts. on that article. We never saw coal so high in Quebec as it was last fall; but that does not interfere with the importation of coal, because we enlarge our industry, and, therefore, the consumption is enlarged. It is said that this policy has put taxes upon the people; but in 1878 we had the same cry, and at that time the people were starving in Montreal and Quebec because they had nothing to do. By this policy we have given them something to do, and something to earn, and the result is that the mass of the people are more wealthy and more happy.

Mr. McNEILL. I do not intend to prolong the debate of this question, but I wish to make one observation. It seems to me that if we intend to establish manufactures of iron in this country at all, the sooner we commence the better; and I think that perhaps a statement of the effects of the policy which has been pursued in the United States—a policy similar to that proposed by the hon. Finance Minister—might be interesting to the House. In 1870 there were only 10,000 tons of Bessemer steel produced in the United States; in 1877 the amount had risen to 757,000 tons. During the period between 1863 and 1873 prices fell from \$158 per ton to \$42 per ton, the decline in price being continuous between those two dates. Comparing the years 1880 with 1870, I find that the production has grown in Great Britain in those years to the extent of 17 per cent., while in the United States it has doubled. At the present day the United States produce a greater amount of Bessemer steel than any other country in the world. This has been the result of the adoption in the United States of the policy which it is proposed to be adopted here; and I do not think anyone will consider that such results as I have mentioned would be very injurious to this country. There has been a continuous decline in the price of iron products in the United States. The price of the best refined rolled iron in Philadelphia, in 1844, was \$85.62 per ton; in 1850, \$59 per ton; in 1877, \$52 per ton; while, in 1878, it went down to \$45 per ton. So the result has been that the people of the United States have now got this manufacture in their own hands, while, at the same time, they are getting their iron enormously cheaper than before. I think if the adoption of this policy will produce similar results in this country, it will not be displeasing to the country, or to this House.

Mr. WOODWORTH. I should have added nothing to the debate which has taken place, had it not been for some remarks made by the hon. member for Norfolk (Mr. Charlton). It seems to me that we have heard enough about the country being deceived at the last General Election. The changes have been rung upon that subject sufficiently, and I can scarcely think that hon. gentlemen opposite are helping their cause, or assisting the interests of the people, or enabling them to live any better or happier, by continually dwelling on the theme that the country is going to the dogs, or that the people have been deceived. For hon. gentlemen opposite I entertain personally very

kind feelings—they are naturally of a kindly disposition; but when they touch upon matters political you would think they were a lot of hired mourners, and that everything looked at through their glasses was of a most dolorous and unhappy character. We have heard that in old times it was the custom to hire mutes at funerals, or rather to hire persons who were, some supposed to be mutes, but when they got home after the funeral, or went to their *cafés*, they ate and drank and were cheerful like other men. In this House, to-day, we have a compact serried mass of gentlemen sitting to the left of the Speaker whose business seems to be that of professional mourners, hired for the occasion; and the one who succeeds in putting on the most dolorous look is regarded as the head boy of his class. They are most ably led; but is it not about time that they forsook this kind of warfare, and joined in helping to carry on the business of the country. If they have any objections to the Tariff, or to governmental action in any respect, let them make that objection, but let them not be continually placing on record in *Hansard*, and in the public newspapers, that this country is a splendid place to stay away from. I should judge that they were in the habit of reading the most lugubrious literature.

An hon. MEMBER. The lamentations of Jeremiah.

Mr. WOODWORTH. Yes, perhaps the lamentations of Jeremiah; but it occurs to me that they must also have been reading "The Raven," for with these hon. gentlemen,

"The raven, never flitting,
Still is sitting, still is sitting
On the pallid bust of Pallas,
Just above their chamber door;
And his eyes have all the seeming
Of a demon that is dreaming,
And the lamp light o'er him streaming
Throws his shadow on the floor;
And their soul, from out that shadow
That lies floating on the floor,
Shall be lifted—never more!"

I went into the Library the other day to ask for Byron's Poems, but I found that the volume containing the poem of "Darkness" had been taken out by an hon. gentleman who is a member of the Opposition. This hon. gentleman did not speak, but I have no doubt

"He had a dream which was not all a dream:
The bright sun was extinguished, and the stars
Did wander darkling in the eternal space," &c.

The hon. gentleman did not exactly recite these lines, but one of them recited Sidney Smith on taxation—or rather, he did not recite it, but wrote it on foolscap, and read it. When I heard it, I woke up, and I thought he was talking about a new man named Smith; and I found that it was something every schoolboy knows, and that almost every gentleman in this House must have learned when he was at school. My hon. friends opposite seemed to be acquainted with all that class of literature which would tend to make them unhappy, although a more natural, a more kind, a more cheerful, or a more generous lot of men in private life could hardly be found. But why do they not carry those feelings into Parliament? Why is it that they are always drilled here to put on the habits of mourners, and to take a black cast of everything? Not one of them has a cheerful word in this House. How do they expect to get into power? By telling the people that they are blind, and sick and lame? If you are always telling a man that he is sick, it will not be very long before he is so. Go to any man and tell him: "Your eyes are looking bad; you must be sick." "No," he says, "I feel well enough." Another comes up to him, and says: "Your skin is yellow; you have got the jaundice." "No," he says, "I feel pretty well." Another comes along, and says: "You are looking awful bad." In half an hour you will have that man in bed. Imagine a man sitting down at table with hon. gentlemen opposite in