

to-day, and we believe tens of thousands of families will be pauperized beyond the possibility of recovery."

Nor was this all. On the floor of Parliament, after Mr. Fielding had introduced the new Liberal tariff (which remains the same to-day) Sir Charles Tupper spoke as follows :—

"The result is that this tariff goes into operation, and the industries of this country are already paralyzed in consequence, while hon. members gloat, vindictively gloat, over the destruction of Canadian industries. I was reading the wail, the sorrowful wail, of these industries in The Montreal Gazette, where one manufacturer after another declared that their industries were ruined, that their mills must close, and that they saw staring them in the face a return to the deplorable state of things that existed when the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) that last addressed the House was in charge of the fiscal policy of the country. I say that a deeper wrong was never inflicted upon Canada. I feel that so far from rejoicing at it from a party standpoint, I deplore from the bottom of my heart the ruin that is going to be inflicted upon the best interests of Canada and upon its great industries. Still, I unhesitatingly say that, from a party point of view, the gentlemen are doing our work. They are showing the people of this country that no reliance can be placed upon the most solemn declarations that they may make, either in the House or out of it. They are showing the people of this country that, having obtained power, which was all they wished for, they are now prepared to abuse that power at a cost of the sacrifice of the industries of Canada."

An announcement like the foregoing, from the leader of the Conservative party, is glaringly inconsistent with later utterances on the subject of the tariff. When good times had come and prosperity was everywhere evident, then Sir Charles Tupper changed his tune. He declared that the National Policy was still in force. When, however, the new tariff was first brought before him, and after he had become familiar with all the changes involved therein, he did not hesitate to say in the language quoted above that it meant "the destruction of Canadian industries." What follows will show how far astray were the Conservatives in their prophecies of ruin.