

Mr. BLAKE. I moved, a long time ago, for papers and correspondence connected with various subsidies, either land or money, to railway companies in the North-West. I observe the hon. gentleman has a notice on the paper to grant subsidies to several railway companies in the North-West.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I will have the papers laid on the Table to-night.

Mr. MILLS. When will the papers with reference to the Manitoba boundary and Indian title be brought down?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I will make particular enquiry into that.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE TARIFF.

House resumed adjourned debate on motion of Sir Leonard Tilley to go again into Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. COCKBURN. I apprehend that a short contribution to the debate at this juncture will be more in accord with the sentiment of the House than any elaborate statement of the question now before us, and I therefore claim the indulgence of the House while I briefly give my views on public matters according to my light. Sir, the people of Canada are having rare opportunities of studying the political ethics of the country. We have had this question discussed for the past seven or eight years; but notwithstanding all the discussions, I daresay it will be difficult for people to arrive at a definite conclusion amid all the contradictory statements made. However, experience, which is the best educator of all, has cleared up several points in this controversy, and to some of these points I propose to address myself. Ever since the change of Government, in 1878, we find hon. gentlemen opposite attributing lack of patriotism to hon. gentlemen on this side when we say that matters are not so prosperous and are not satisfactory, not only in respect to the National Policy but also in respect to several other matters, which come within the domain of Dominion administration. These gentlemen are troubled with rather short memories, because if they would consider the attitude they assumed in 1878 and contrast it with our attitude to-day they would find that while in our case there is magnanimity, there is in the other the opposite quality. Our attitude is much more lenient than that of our hon. friends opposite. It is within the lively recollection of hon. gentlemen in this House that the line taken by hon. gentlemen opposite during the *régime* of my hon. friend from East York (Mr. Mackenzie), was to state that ruin was broadcast and the Government of the day were responsible for the depression of trade then existing. In fact every business trouble was made known and heralded abroad, and whenever a manufacturing establishment had to close, either for repairs or other reasons, its closing was heralded from the house-tops in and just prior to 1878. Hon. gentlemen opposite also made special promises then which I need not recapitulate; they almost promised everything. The people in some sections of the country owing to the hopes held out as to the effect of a high protective tariff, and by misleading statements in other sections of the country, were led to accept the promises of hon. gentlemen opposite and placed them in the position they now occupy. At that time hon. gentlemen opposite were pointing out all the derelictions of the Mackenzie Administration, charged that Administration with being the cause of widespread ruin—a ruin which did not exist. They failed to point out that we had many industries, and they failed also to state that depression existed in a more intense degree in the country to the south of us, which was largely protected; they only told half the truth, and half the truth is said to be at times the most dangerous sort of falsehood. It

did not suit their purpose then to tell the truth but to hold the Mackenzie Government responsible for all the ills which overspread the country. We find on the contrary, instead of matters being depressed as represented, even by this report of the commissioner on the industries of the country—only a partial report because all the manufacturing centres were not visited—but even this report shows that instead of all manufacturing establishments going out of work prior to 1878, and during the *régime* of Mr. Mackenzie, no less than one hundred and six were started during his term of office. It may be said that this is not a very large number, but it is the number shown by this one-sided report. Hon. gentlemen opposite acceded to power in 1878, and no sooner did the change take place than old establishments, which were in operation for a number of years, were claimed as new industries. It is quite true, however, that the sugar refinery resumed operation after the change in Government. Shortly after the present Government came in, their organs and their speakers said: Behold the National Policy; but some of us kept a record of the actual experience from that time forward. The Government passed a measure known as the National Policy in 1879, but it was two years from that date before the times got better, before there was any change. For the first two years of the present Administration, in 1879 and 1880, they had a deficit. They were confronted with this, and told: Your policy is not doing anything for us; what about those promises? The Administration had promised to bring about a change directly they got into power, they had promised that as if by a magic wand they would bring prosperity in every possible way as the result of their accession to power, but it was two long years before matters got better. During that time, when they were reminded that things had not got better, they said it was owing to the footprints of the Mackenzie Administration still existing, and that things had not had time to get better. I recollect perfectly well when the first lifting of the cloud took place. It was in the fall of 1880, when a demand sprung up for our lumber and other exports. The American demand for lumber sprung up in the fall of 1880. We have a large domestic market for lumber in Canada, but the domestic market did not improve until the foreign demand created an export, and then the domestic market followed. The brief period of prosperity we have had since has been due entirely to our exports. In 1878, the gentlemen told us that we could do all our business within ourselves. They seemed to borrow the Celestial idea, "What need we care for foreign commerce?" We were to have home markets. Wherever there was water-power, we were to have manufacturing industries built up. But this has not been the case. On the contrary, the effect of the tariff has been to centralise those establishments. The commissioner very conveniently omitted to visit some of those places which have lost their factories by their being removed to Toronto, such as Newcastle, Woodbridge, and some other places, though they are counted in Toronto all right for the National Policy. The home markets were not created. We were promised that the price of our farm products would be very much increased. It has already been stated that our manufacturing had, in 1878, assumed considerable proportions. The member for Brant has already informed the House that our importation for home manufacture in raw cotton alone had increased from three and a half millions in 1874, to seven and a quarter millions in 1878. That did not show that the factories were languishing to any great extent. As to the markets for farm produce, I have a carefully compiled report of the prices of grain in Toronto during the two periods. The average price of fall wheat under the Mackenzie Administration was \$1.16, and under the present Administration \$1.12, 4 cents a bushel less than formerly, though it was to be increased by 15 cents according to the promise. The prices of spring wheat were about the