

ably the public mind against the National Policy; but the people, thanks to their good sense, and not owing to their ignorance, as it was contended by the hon. member for Centre Huron, did not believe that such an objection was well grounded; they had no confidence in the men by whom it was urged; they thought that the lumber trade could not be more prostrated, as every other industry, than it was during the Reform Administration, and they gave their warm adhesion to the National Policy, almost every constituency of the Ottawa region returning Conservative members, by large majorities—the vast county of Ottawa alone giving a well-deserved majority of 1624 votes to its worthy member. In this connection, it will not be without interest to read the following declaration, made last Session by the hon. member for Centre Huron—who is supposed to be the financial light of the Opposition—in his second speech on the Tariff:—

“We are to have all the trade and business of the country revolutionised; we are to have, to take but one illustration alone, the lumber interest of this country, employing from 45,000 to 50,000 men, with their families depending on them; we are to have this interest put in the greatest peril, because it is impossible to conceal from the House that the imposition of a further burden of 30c., or 40c., or 50c. per thousand on the manufacture of lumber will go very far to give that great industry its death blow for the time being. They can understand, from that illustration alone, how exceedingly trifling all the benefits which are proposed to be secured under this Tariff are, compared with the enormous mischief which will result from its operation. Which is true of the fishing interest and of the transportation interests, and as the agriculturists will find true of their own interests also.”

In fact, every interest in the land, including the lumber interest, was going to suffer most severely—was to receive its death blow. Well, Sir, what has been the result of the mournful prediction of that hon. gentleman, who seems determined to emulate that famous Trojan prophetess, Cassandra, who had nothing but the most gloomy things to predict for her country? Let me hasten to say that it is yet as unfulfilled as many other lugubrious predictions emanating from the same source. This fact is not surprising, for that hon. gentleman has not been a success so far in the prophetic vocation—indeed he has reaped more laurels as a maker of deficits, as a

mixer and muddler of figures, to employ the language of the *Globe*. No one has forgotten that the hon. member for Centre Huron puzzled, once, every member of this House when he stated, in one part of his speech, that Protection would enrich a few manufacturers at the expense of the working class, whilst, in another part of the same speech, he asserted that Protection would produce such a home competition that it would ruin the manufacturers themselves. To come back to the lumber trade, I am happy to say that, far from being ruined, far from being annihilated, far from receiving its “death blow for the time being”—to use the very word of that hon. gentleman, the lumber trade has received, within the last year, an immense impulse—an impetus unparalleled for many years. Far from receiving their death blow, lumbermen have considerably enlarged their operations, have increased the number of their woodmen, have employed them at higher wages, and have vastly increased their consumption of agricultural products, for which they offer an immediate and most advantageous market. Far from receiving its death blow, the demand for lumber has been such that for the first time it had to be shipped on rails from Ottawa, and that not only are the immense piles accumulated for years around the Chaudiere already sold, but that an enormous quantity of lumber, which still lies in the forest, has been contracted for at the highest prices ever offered in Canada. Far from receiving its death blow, the transportation traffic connected with the lumber trade will be greatly revived, and we shall see, as soon as navigation opens, a large fleet of steamers and boats carrying the products of that industry to a foreign destination, whilst many of our railways will be fully occupied, as they are now, for the same purpose, at profitable rates. Far from receiving its death blow, there will be an unusual activity in a few weeks around our magnificent falls; the “hum” will resound once more agreeably to our ears, and my hon. friends opposite shall hear it, if our legislative duties are not concluded at the beginning of May; mills which had been silent for years will be reopened, and others which had worked during the day only will be then in full blast day and