

sonally acquainted with the facts. In looking for the boom the Finance Minister visited Almonte, where there are a great many woollen mills, and where the owners have displayed much energy, which would deserve the admiration of all their fellow-citizens, were it not that they joined in the effort to impose upon their fellow-subjects those increased burdens. The hon. gentleman was shown through the largest of the mills, and by-and-bye, after he had made his hurried survey in which, with an eagle glance he took in at once the process of manufacture, the employes were all gathered in some large room to be addressed by the Finance Minister and to cheer him and present him with an address. On the walls was written in large letters: "On and after the 1st of December next, wages in this mill will be increased 10 per cent." Here, at least, was a case where the National Policy had brought great advantage to the workingmen, a case in which the Ministry might triumph ever more. After the National Policy had gone into operation, I learned from Mr. Galbraith, the late representative for that district, whose loss we all deplore, that some weeks after the National Policy went into operation, the men demanded an increase of wages, but instead of receiving it they were told they must either work one hour every day additional or consent to a reduction of ten per cent., and they consented to the reduction of ten per cent. That continued for some time until they found it necessary to increase the rate of wages, but they only went back to the rate in force during the Mackenzie Administration. Such has been the effect on the rate of wages and on the laboring men, and I have never yet heard of an instance of any increase, and I doubt if any hon. member in this House has heard of an instance where any one of these manufacturers, after the National Policy had gone into operation, or even after he had begun to experience its benefits, of his own will and motion and out of a sense of justice, called his men together and said: "I am making more profit to-day by reason of the National Policy, the cost of your living has increased, and as a matter of justice I think I will admit you to a share of these profits and increase your wages. If any such instance as that has occurred in any part of this Dominion, I think it would be well for the sake of humanity, and especially for the sake of such humanity as exists amongst manufacturers of the class we find described by the Commissioners appointed by the Government, that it should be widely known, that it should be known that there is something to redeem the dark and gloomy features of this hideous policy, something to show that the working people of the country are deriving some benefit from the National Policy. The hon. Finance Minister says that all trades and manufactures have been improved. He declares that the manufacturers did not want to increase the prices, that they never meant to increase the prices, that all they wanted was the market secured to them—and they, high minded, honorable and patriotic men that they are—they would take care that the people had not to pay more for their productions than they would have to pay for the imported article. We are told that everything is now cheaper than it was before, and we are asked to infer that this is due to the magnanimous manner in which the manufacturers are dealing with the people whom they might fleece, but would not because they are so honest and just. The hon. gentleman speaks of the manufactures of boots and shoes, and he states that to-day hand-made boots and shoes are about 15 per cent. dearer than they were. On what basis he made that calculation I do not know, I never heard that they were 15 per cent. dearer. My impression was that the price was about the same, but I suppose he had some data for his conclusion. He said that factory made boots and shoes are cheaper, and he would have us infer that they are cheaper because the National Policy gives the manufacturers the market all

to themselves. But they had the market all to themselves before the National Policy. Look at the returns of two or three years ago and you will find that the whole importation of boots and shoes into the Dominion, including British Columbia—to which in those days you could not get boots and shoes from Canada without much trouble—and including baby shoes and so on, which are manufactured at but a few places in the United States—the large factories not troubling about them—were something like \$240,000. And to-day we are importing notwithstanding the National Policy, and the importations this year are larger than last year, showing that the National Policy has had no effect because it was in operation last year and it is in operation to-day. Why, then, attempt to mislead the people of the country? The Finance Minister must have known—he cannot help knowing—that the boot and shoe makers had the market to themselves years ago, and that if there was any depression in that trade it was not because of any slaughtering of foreign boots and shoes in the country, but because the purchasing power of the people was diminished at the time, and they could not buy as many boots and shoes as they could a few years before, or as they can at the present time. Some may say that a man must wear boots and shoes, at any rate; but it will happen that a man who is in distress will wear a pair of boots with rents in them which, under better circumstances, he would throw aside. Another article to which the hon. gentleman referred was agricultural implements; but the manufacturers of these implements had the market to themselves before the National Policy, and exported, as the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Paterson) conclusively showed, a great deal more than they are exporting now. Some of these makers, I believe, were rather annoyed because the Americans for a time sent these implements to Manitoba, when it was almost impossible for our men to send them there at a reasonable cost; but when communication with that country was opened up our manufacturers found themselves able to send agricultural implements there, and as they were able to keep the Americans out of the markets of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, they would have been able to keep them out of Manitoba and the North-West without any change in the policy of the country, other than opening up the territory and rendering it accessible to them as it previously was to the American manufacturers. The Finance Minister said that they are manufacturing more than they were before, though he was forced to admit that the duty on the raw materials presses heavily on those manufacturers, taking out of some of them, as was shown by an hon. gentleman on this side, something like \$12,000 a year; and yet, Sir, because they manufacture so many more and send out so many more they are, he said, making greater profits and enjoying a larger income. For the increase, which is a natural increase under the circumstances of the country—an increase which comes from the increase of the arable land brought into cultivation in this country—he would claim credit for his National Policy. The hon. gentleman has spoken of carriages, but I can assure him that carriage makers to whom I have spoken regard the National Policy as purely oppressive in their case, and the hon. gentleman has shown by his own statement that it is so. He says that carriages a few years ago were worth \$10, \$20, \$30 or \$40 more than they sell for now, and he says, see what the National Policy is doing for the country. Why, Sir, the carriage makers had the country to themselves before the National Policy. Look at the old returns and you will find that something like \$70,000 worth were imported each year, and these mostly consisted of fancy carriages. Ninety-nine per cent. of the work was done in the country and by the people of this country, and they were able to charge higher prices in those days, although now