

of an article like steel, which is not manufactured in the country, but is used exclusively by the manufacturer, it is deemed advisable to put it on the free list. I am quite sure that the leader of the Opposition and the House will justify that policy and will further admit that it should be carried out to the fullest possible extent where it does not interfere with the industries of the country.

Mr. PLATT. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will tell us if he despairs of securing the manufacture of steel from the iron ore of his own county. In 1882 we were almost made to believe that the smoke of the blast furnaces was already visible; that a further product of iron in his own county, which was calculated for the manufacture of steel, would take place.

Mr. BOWELL. Knowing the progress of human nature and the genius of the human race, I do not despair of anything. I think the time will come when steel will be manufactured in Canada, and I hope profitably. We know that our market is not large enough for that particular quality of steel, but I can inform the hon. gentleman that crucible steel was manufactured in London for some short time, but the works are not going on now. I hope the time is not far distant when we shall not only have steel works, but other works in North Hastings, where, as the hon. gentleman well knows, there are large deposits of iron. I think there are more profitable enterprises into which the owners of that ore can enter than to manufacture the finer qualities of steel at the present moment.

Mr. PLATT. We were told, however, that the placing of a duty upon steel and iron would likely hurry on the happy period to which the hon. gentleman alludes. I suppose that if the doctrine which was then preached be correct to-day, the placing of a duty upon steel might still hasten that happy consumation.

Mr. BOWELL. If we followed the footsteps of our neighbors across the border, and put about \$7 a ton on pig iron and \$28 on steel, perhaps the hon. gentleman's happy dream might be realised.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I suggest, for the promotion of business, that the Minister of Customs should undertake to let us know, on Concurrence, what were the works specified with so much minuteness of detail by the First Minister.

Mr. BOWELL. No; I thank you.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I am not holding him responsible for the First Minister's statements, except in a perfunctory way. I think my proposition is a reasonable one. These things were given with great minuteness of detail; we were told the amount of capital ready to be invested in this work. We have had proof recently of the worth of the First Minister's utterances on other important matters, and we cannot doubt for a moment that when the First Minister made these statements he had in his pocket full and perfect proof of all these things whereof he spoke. I think that really on Concurrence we ought to have the details ourselves.

Mr. BOWELL. I will call the Premier's attention to the question of the hon. gentleman. No doubt he will satisfy him.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. member for Lennox is very hard to satisfy. The Steel Association of Ontario has not been opened, and we are told this evening that the Steel Association of Nova Scotia has desisted from the manufacture of steel.

Mr. BOWELL. Oh, no.

Mr. BLAKE. I am speaking of Londonderry.

Mr. BOWELL. They never manufactured it.

Mr. BLAKE. They did it for a while.

Mr. STAIRS. They never really got into operation.

Mr. BLAKE. Londonderry never got into operation, and the Crucible Steel Works of Ontario are closed. So the hon. gentleman cannot expect much when these disasters have attended the attempts to manufacture steel. The closing of the Crucible Steel Works of Ontario is one of the happy events which have occurred within a short time under the National Policy.

Mr. McLELAN. There is a mistake as to the date at which the Londonderry company attempted to make steel. It was in 1875 or 1876 that they attempted to make steel, and they ceased operations in 1876 or 1877.

Mr. McDOUGALD. I cannot understand why hon. gentlemen opposite should oppose the placing of steel for skates on the free list, for it is within the distinct recollection of members of this House that when the Administration submitted a proposal to place a duty on steel, for the purpose of protecting that industry, it was strongly opposed by the Opposition of that day. This change is not required for protective purposes. Steel for skates is not made in this country, and is not likely to be made for a good many years to come. It has been stated that under the operation of the National Policy very little result has been obtained in the way of promoting the steel industry. Reading the statistical reports with respect to the manufacturing industries of the country, I find that one industry, the New Glasgow steel works, which was brought into existence under the National Policy, at the present time employs 100 hands and has a weekly wage-bill of \$750. That is a manufacture that has been brought into existence, I repeat, entirely by the operation of the National Policy. The Steel Company of Londonderry was a company that carried on business entirely in iron. It has been a failure in regard to producing steel; and it certainly was a failure under the Administration of hon. gentlemen opposite, as the company went out of business, as regards making steel, before the National Policy came into existence. In relation to the steel works at New Glasgow, I will read a short extract from the *Eastern Chronicle*, published in Pictou county, a paper which hon. gentlemen will not repudiate, and the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Paterson) who visited the constituency, last year, will corroborate the statements published. On March 12th, the *Eastern Chronicle* says:

"We note that Messrs. Jas. D. McGregor and Andrew Walker, the respective presidents of the Nova Scotia Steel and Glass Companies, have recently returned from the Upper Provinces, which they visited in the interests of their companies. We understand that Mr. McGregor made contracts for some 1,500 tons of steel nail plate in Montreal, and that orders for some 500 tons of other qualities have been secured by the company. This insures constant work for the company for the next six or eight months. Mr. McGregor says that the prices at which the large contracts have been made are exceedingly low, and were only possible because of the excellence of the steel made by the Nova Scotia Company and of the fact that steel nails are evidently forcing iron nails out of competition. Over 1,000 tons of these same goods were sold last year to one Montreal firm, who showed their satisfaction with their quality by duplicating the contract for this year. Probably a good portion of these heavy goods will be shipped by schooner to Montreal direct from the company's wharf, as the freight is somewhat cheaper by that method of carriage than by rail. Mr. Walker's visit, we understand, was rather to see the customers of the company than to sell goods. He found that in all cases the goods gave excellent satisfaction. He reports business very dull in the Upper Provinces, but the Nova Scotia Glass Company are able to hold their own in the western market, and are receiving orders about sufficient to keep them running without accumulating much stock. Their table glass is to be found on the tables of almost all the hotels and restaurants between here and Ottawa. The prospects of both these works are very encouraging, under their present excellent management, and with their unsurpassed facilities, both for obtaining coal and for making shipment by water or rail."

Mr. BOWELL. I was in error in regard to the quantity of steel imported for skates. I find, according to the Trade and Navigation Returns, that in 1883 there were imported 180 cwt., of the value of \$1,496. This year the quantity was 2,418 cwt., of the value of \$12,732.