

not being cognizant of the event which had taken place at a later hour than six o'clock in the evening, thus wrote with regard to the alteration which had taken place in Sir Francis Hincks views:—

“We are glad to find that the Government have yielded to the numerous remonstrances against several of the tariff resolutions. The duties upon coal and wheat have been abandoned, and salt imported for the sea and gulf fisheries of the Dominion will be imported free.”

But it happened that the very same evening there was a transformation scene in that house; and the hon. gentleman who had come down at four o'clock in the afternoon to extinguish the National Policy, at eight o'clock in the evening revived the National Policy. On the following morning, in a melancholy mood, the same newspaper to which he had just referred, representing as it did the Conservative party in Western Canada, and, at that time, the only at all influential representative of that party in the city of Toronto, the capital of the Province of Ontario, wrote as follows:—

“We were led yesterday into announcing that the Government had decided upon abandoning the proposed duties on coal and wheat. The announcement was a mistake. Although it was stated before recess on Tuesday that those duties would be taken off, the Government changed their minds, and have determined on allowing them to remain. This change, of course, was made out of respect to the sympathy and desire of the majority of the House of Commons. We have nothing but regret that the Government felt themselves unable to carry out the policy which unquestionably commends itself to their better judgment.”

He had no doubt that the writer of this article and the proprietor of that paper knew perfectly well what the better judgment of the right hon. gentleman and his Government was. He (Mr. Beatty) probably knew also under what influences these hon. gentlemen had been forced to act in a manner contrary to their better judgment. The *Leader* closed its remarks as follows:—

“It is a pity they did not think of that in time. Vacillation tends to weakness. It is a thousand pities that the legislative majority is so stupidly wrong as it unquestionably is.”

MR. DYMOND.

This was the opinion of the representative organ of the hon. gentlemen opposite with regard to the National Policy of 1870. The National Policy imposed duties as follows:—On coal and coke, 50c. a ton; on wheat and rye, 25c. a barrel; on other meal, 15c. a barrel; on wheat, 4c. a bushel; on other grains and on Indian corn, 3c. a bushel; on salt, 5c. a bushel, except on “salt imported into the country from any British possession, or for the use of the sea or gulf fisheries”; animals of all kinds continued at 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. He would just call the attention of the House to this fact: that, notwithstanding this duty was imposed primarily in the interests of the producers of coal in Nova Scotia, not one ton of coal, under the operation of that duty, ever found its way into Western Canada. There had been some imports of coal from Nova Scotia into Western Canada in 1869; and there were a few imports of coal in 1871; both as the result of private ventures on the part of Western merchants; but in the year of the National Policy, the year when that duty was imposed for the express purpose of forcing Nova Scotia coal upon the Western Canadian market, not one single ton found its way to Toronto, or, he believed, west of the Ottawa River. Two years ago, in the course of a somewhat conversational debate, he (Mr. Dymond) made reference to this fact and also stated that some Nova Scotia coal seen in Toronto at that period had been of an extremely inferior character. His words were at once taken hold of by the hon. member for Cumberland, and he observed also that they were frequently used afterwards in the Maritime Provinces in order to prove what were the opinions of a Western Canadian member with regard to the magnificent coal deposit of Nova Scotia. It was actually imputed to him (Mr. Dymond) that he had depreciated the magnificent coal deposits of Nova Scotia in consequence of a chance observation which he had made on the floor of that House. Now, the fact was that injury had more than once been done in this respect by the carelessness of some of the producers of Nova Scotia coal in their commercial relations. The coal seen at