

never cheaper in Canada than it is to-day. It is cheaper than you can get it in the United States. You can get two pounds more sugar for \$1 in Canada than you can get in the United States, and cheaper by half than it was not very long before confederation. That cannot be contradicted. What would be our condition if our local and Dominion industries were destroyed? In the years from 1873 to 1879, when the Liberal party were in power, the sugar industry then existing in Montreal was destroyed by the policy of the Government. The leader of the Opposition admitted that. What would be our position if we, after building up those industries with a protective policy, were to throw open our markets to foreign competition? It would be just like from 1873 to 1878, when here and elsewhere had to be established soup kitchens for those who wanted work and could find none. We would be worse off than they are in the United States. They could flood our markets, break down our local industries and then charge us what they thought proper. My hon. friend did not dwell much on the condition of affairs during the five years his party were in power. We know what their record was, every industry of the country was paralyzed. Do they want the country to go back to that condition again? The Opposition have not changed their policy. If they are honest in their professions, they are on the same track now that they were then, and as like causes would produce like effects they would soon bring this country to the verge of ruin as they did before. When they were in power they increased the taxes beyond what they had been before, but they did not increase the revenue and they piled up the debt of the country with very little or nothing to show for it. Could they point to any industry or any enterprise of importance on which the public money had been expended? The only prominent conspicuous industry they could point to as having been established under their regime was the soup kitchens, and even those were the work of those who had sympathy with the starving people. Many of us can remember when honest workmen filled the streets of Ottawa and came to these buildings begging, not for assistance, but for work. They were cast to one side, treated at least with indifference and told that they should eat less—I believe that was practically

the advice and encouragement given them. This Government when taking office in 1879 initiated a new era, and there has been progress in the country. Talk of the people going out of the country; the exodus was at flood during the five years the Liberals were in power. The country was fast becoming depopulated. Anybody who looks over the United States statistics will see that the exodus was not so great in the decade between 1881 and 1891, as in the preceding decade. It was not stopped at once after the change of Government, it is not easy to stop such an exodus—the rush was too great. It takes years before you can turn the flow of the population again into proper channels, and when my hon. friend rejoices over the exodus from this country to-day, he knows in his heart that the flood gates were opened wide for the departure of our people to the United States long before the National Policy was initiated. My hon. friend states that 75 per cent of the people of our country are so ignorant that they do not know they are taxed and downtrodden by the other 25 per cent of the population. Well, the present Government have been in power for fifteen years and have been sustained at the polls every time they appealed to the electors. The people know that the Government have been true to the trust reposed in them and have sustained them in carrying out the principle of protection in this country. The policy now is the policy of 1878, and I hope it may long remain so. I see no reason why they should depart from it. No doubt changes will be needed to adapt a tariff to the ever changing wants, necessities and developments of the country. Any law of this kind affecting the revenue of the country must adapt itself to time and circumstances. Our tariff to-day on all classes of imports is on the average not more than 17½ per cent, not more than it was during the five years of the Mackenzie regime, on all non-enumerated articles. I do not believe the Government have done anything to forfeit the confidence of the country, or that they should depart from the principle of protection which has brought prosperity to the country. On the contrary, I believe they have as much of the confidence of the people as they had fifteen years ago. It is remarkable to me that Canada has maintained its prosperity when all the commercial nations of the world have felt the pinch of trade, and our neighbours to the south of us have been paralyzed financially. It is