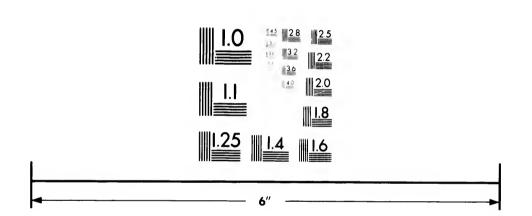


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PROTECTION OR FREE TRADE?

Review of the Platform of Both Political Parties.

In order that the attitude of both Conservatives and Reformers, on the trade question may be fully understood, recent utterances of the leaders of the Reform party, and also of Sir John Macdonald, are given below. All those who believe in the National Policy will do well to contrast both platforms.

What Sir John Says.

(Extract from his speech at Conservative Convention, Toronto, Dec. 17th, 1884.)

"I therefore say that the National Policy has not in one single particular been a failure. And I nail my colors to the mast on that point. I am a National Policy man. Those who do not agree with me on that subject, though they may support me on others, will fail me on the point which is more essential and more important to the tuture prosperity of Canada than any subject that can be submitted to the Legislature of a nation."

What Sir Richard Says.

 must be raised all over or else the condition of the workingmen must be sensibly deteriorated."

(Extract from speech in House of Commons, during Session of 1886.)

"No more stupid act of folly was ever committed than in insisting on imitating the protective policy of the United States. There never was a country less suited for that experiment than this Dominion of Canada. Now, sir, I say that there have been two very potent causes of mischief in bringing about the present state of affairs here. One of these I believe to have been the protective system, and not so much in its direct as in its indirect results. They tend to create a permanent and most corrupt lobby and to foster a great many sinister influences; they tend directly to make manufacturers careless of their own business, and much more disposed to rely on the political influence which they can bring to bear on the Ministers of the day than in the exercise of their own brains and their own energy in advancing their manufactures."

What Hon. Mr. Mackenzie Says.

(Extracts from Speech in House of Commons, March 7th, 1882. Vide Hunsard.)

"With respect to our policy, as contrasted with policy of hon. gentleman opposite, let me say this: During the elections of 1878—I am sure there was no lack of abundant declarations of policy on our part to indicate precisely what is the line we intended to follow—we declined to accept anything looking in the direction of Protection. We said we had a revenue of 17½ per cent., which afforded a very large protection to manufacturers. And I knew then, and I know now, that that did afford a sufficient protection to nearly every legitimate interest.

We have a firm belief that the Tariff that is in existence now, or any protective Tariff, must necessarily be ultimately a serious mischief to the country."

What Hon. David Mills Says.

"Well, the hon. gentleman (Hon. A. W. McLelan) says that he is in favor of a reciprocity treaty, but he wants reciprocity upon fair [5]

terms, he wishes to have something to offer the people of the United States when the time comes for the negotiation of a reciprocity treaty. Well, the hon, gentleman has his opinions as to the best means of securing reciprocity, but I can tell him that when the Government adopted a high protective tariff, when they abandoned the policy of a revenue tariff, they did that which was the very worst thing that could be done in the interests of the people of this country."

What Mr. Charlton Says.

"I wish to ask this question: Dld our manufacturing interests, when the National Policy was introduced, require additional protection? I answer that they did not. They had attained a great development under a revenue tariff of 15 per cent., raised to 17½ per cent. in the last two years (s.e. of Mr. Mackenzie's administration.)

What Mr. Paterson (Brant) Says.

(Extract from speech in House of Commons, March 16th, 1882. Vide Hansard.)

"I stand here to-night and attack their Tariff and denounce their Tariff and fight against them and their Tariff, because, while it has given exceptional advantages to a certain few industries, it has, in addition to injuring other industries, actually placed some manufacturers in a worse position than they were before."

What Mr. Davies Says.

"And I think, sir, the wretched nostrum (i.e. the National Policy) offered to the people a few years ago has he is shown to be the invention of a quack: that we will soon have the people coming to their senses, and reverting to that policy of a revenue tariff, under which, alone I say, this country can become great, prosperous and happy."

Necessity for Continuing Protection.

The immense strides made towards the development of our manufacturing industries since 1879, shows, not that our National Policy has performed its work and may be safely dispensed with, but on the contrary, that it is still needed to perform a most important service. As an American writer aptly says:—"They (the duties) are like the levee, which must be high enough to resist the highest tides and the occasional inundations." They defend against the surpluses which foreign nations in times of stress would pour upon our shores to relieve their markets. They also keep out the products of foreign pauper labor and enable our own artizans to obtain employment, which under a revenue tariff would be impossible.

A vote for the National Policy means to demand that the products of foreign pauper labor shall be kept out of Canada; a vote against the National Policy means that these products shall come into unrestricted competition with Canadian labor.

Published by the Industrial League, for gratuitous distribution.—Frederic Nicholls, Secretary, Toronto, Canada.

