



COST OF LIVING, UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE TARIFF.

THE June issue of the Labor Gazette brings up to date the people's argument against the Borden Government's policy of tariff revision upwards. The official figures of the Labor Department emphasize the twin evils of increasing cost of living and unemployment which the Government in its fiscal legislation of last session accentuated rather than ameliorated. "Labor conditions generally during May, were not as favorable as for the same period last year" says the Labor Gazette.

A few days ago the Department of Immigration announced in reply to a deputation of some five hundred of Ottawa's unemployed, who gathered before the Government offices seeking aid, that steps would be taken to deport, if necessary, the thousands of unemployed now seeking public charity in the cities.

In the same issue of the Labor Gazette the statistics given as to the cost of living in Canada show equally unsatisfactory conditions. The index number of the Department, giving the average wholesale prices on 272 commodities of general use, was 136.2 for the

month of May. In May of last year, it was 135.4. The working man's weekly budget for food last year averaged \$7.34. In 1910, it averaged \$6.95. For all necessary expenses the average weekly budget of the working man last year was \$14.024. In 1910, it was \$12.972.

In the United States where fiscal revision downwards is now having its logical effect on the cost of living, the index number of the Labor Department for May last was 8.6224. For the same month of last year it was 9.1394. In Great Britain for May it was 117.5 as compared with 122.4 in May of last year. In the United States there has been during the year a reduction of about 5 per cent. In Great Britain there has been a reduction of nearly 4 per cent.

In Canada alone has there been an increase. And in Canada alone has there been an increase in the tariff restrictions favoring monopoly and privilege at the expense of the masses of consumers and producers.

The people of Canada may draw the moral.

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