

Coming to the business streets I found even there the same evidence that prosperity was not so very extraordinary, and the hum not so loud as had been asserted. I found on going through Notre Dame street, the old Recollet House, which was a very few years ago a fashionable dry-goods establishment, built and fitted up in a most expensive style, now occupied by an auctioneer, with a few dusty old traps in the window. Elsewhere I found properties occupied in such a way, that it was evidently impossible they could pay interest on the money invested on them, and I have seen statements in the papers which I believe true, that property, to-day, at Montreal is very, very far short in value of what it was in 1875, 1876 and 1877. And not merely has the market value of the property decreased, but the Assessors have had to reduce the value as assessed, and it remains down to this day, they not feeling justified in making any considerable increase this last year or two, notwithstanding the National Policy, and although the Tories are in power and they assert that everything is prospering and booming. A somewhat similar story might be told of Quebec.

Mr. PLUMB. Is property in Montreal lower than in 1875?

Mr. ANGLIN. I believe that the population of Montreal, besides, is not as large as four years ago. In 1878, 1879 and 1880, a very much larger number of people left Montreal to seek employment and remain elsewhere in employment, than the new arrivals and the natural increase would amount to. The Finance Minister says that there are no laborers to-day in Montreal wanting employment. Only a few weeks ago in answer to an advertisement, in the Montreal paper, calling for 50 or 60 laborers at a dollar a day, the doors of the building, where application was to be made, were broken in by the pressure of the hundreds who sought for work. I ask what would be a fair day's wages for a fair day's work? Hon. gentlemen opposite, who have professed themselves great patrons of the workingmen, but who desire to see them employed for the benefit of the employer, should tell us what is a fair day's wages for a fair day's work at any season. It has been said that the purchasing power of money has been gradually diminished of late years, and we have seen pastorals issued on high authority, of no less than two Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church, asserting that the purchasing power of money has been so greatly diminished that ministers can no longer be expected to live on their old stipends, and that their congregations should increase those stipends to enable those ministers to live as they did a few years ago. The same remark applies, in a very much stronger degree, to the workingmen. The Tariff presses with greater weight and severity on the workingmen who paid the higher duties on their coarse heavy clothing. It is they especially who most largely contribute to swell the revenue so as to enable the Government to spend all they do and boast of a large surplus. Would one dollar a day be a fair day's wages for a fair day's work?

Mr. WHITE (Renfrew). I would like to see any hon. gentleman engage Canadian laborers for a dollar a day in Ontario.

Mr. ANGLIN. The hon. gentleman will understand that only a very short time ago the wages of the laborers on the North Shore Railroad, in the Province of Quebec, were reduced to 80 cents.

Mr. WHITE (Renfrew). The wages of men on the Canada Central Railroad have been \$1.20.

Mr. ANGLIN. I am not guessing or speculating, but speak of an actual occurrence and reduction on a road almost in sight of our Parliament windows.

Mr. PLUMB. They went away to get \$1.10.

Mr. ANGLIN.

Mr. ANGLIN. Where?

Mr. MACKENZIE. To Niagara, perhaps.

Mr. PLUMB. You cannot hire a man there for less than \$1.10.

Mr. BLAKE. Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Niagara is interrupting the hon. gentleman who has the floor, in a contumacious manner, which is highly discreditable to him.

Mr. PLUMB. The hon. member for West Durham is interrupting and making statements in regard to me which, in a parliamentary sense, are not founded on fact.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member for Niagara will have the courtesy to listen to the hon. member.

Mr. ANGLIN. Whenever the hon. member for Niagara becomes restless, I know I am making a good point, and I do not want him stopped. Now, Sir, in my own town I caused enquiries to be made as to the rate of wages there, in the various kinds of employment, because I knew we would have to deal with this question. I know myself that in the town and city supposed to be represented by the Finance Minister there are to-day many hundreds of laborers without employment. I employed a young man to go through the city and investigate the matter. His report was this: Of late years it has become the custom in St. John to lay the keels of vessels in the early part of the winter, and to prosecute work on them during the winter, for the reason that employers can dictate terms to the men they employ. The highest wages paid to skilled workmen in the shipyards was one dollar a day for the time they could work; and in the winter season they do not average more than four days a week. Wages range from a dollar down to 80 cents a day. The majority of the men receive 80 or 90 cents; only a few earn a dollar. Whoever else has been benefited by this National Policy I think it cannot be shown that the laboring man, the artisan or mechanic has had his condition materially improved. The Finance Minister himself admitted that in 200 factories of the Dominion there has been no increase of wages, and the only benefit that he claims for the workmen is that employment is more steady; well, that is not to be attributed to the National Policy, but arises from other causes. He admits, at all events, that the rate of wages is not increased in a number of these factories. In others he says it is increased by the munificent sum of ten cents a day. Now, I think when he makes a statement such as this he ought to pay this House the compliment of laying full details on the Table, showing us where these factories are, the number of men employed in them and the rate of wages paid at present, and for the last three or four years. I think we were all surprised to hear there are as many as ninety new factories in the whole Dominion. I would be astonished at it were I not aware that since the National Policy came into operation there can hardly be a shingle mill or a cheese factory put up that is not announced as a new industry, the result of the National Policy. I hope that the Finance Minister will do the people the justice of making a full and complete statement, so that we can all judge of its exact value. He says that there was some increase in the rate of wages. I heard of one case of some stove makers up in Hamilton or Toronto, who were very earnest advocates of the National Policy, and who were amongst those who clamored most loudly for increased protection in order that their men may have increased employment and increased wages—I heard that their employers resisted the demands of their men for increased wages until a large number of them had gone to the United States and the others were threatening to go, and then there was an increase of 10 per cent. which was proclaimed all over the country as a result of the National Policy, but it turned out afterwards that it was merely a return to the wages paid by the same firm under the Mackenzie Administration. I heard of another interesting case where I was almost per-