

individual garment. These wrappers, complete and perfectly made, start in price at ninety cents. Of course, this is no price. The seamstress' bill would mean more to you." Another offers ladies' under garments "twenty-five per cent under regulation price." Another offers blankets "at less than the cost of manufacture;" and lines of gingham are offered at from forty to sixty per cent. below regular price. Another, inviting custom, offering hosiery, napery, dress goods, etc., says: "There's no gainsaying the fact that a dollar goes here as far as a dollar and a-half in most stores." Another offers what he calls "the stock of a bankrupt underwear manufacturer" at fifty-five cents on the dollar. Another, who proclaims himself as a "wholesale" grocer, offers to sell at retail, "groceries of all kinds, and household goods in general, at an average of twenty per cent. under ordinary retail prices; and another offers fine underwear, flannel suits neckties, collars, cuffs and shirts from the best makers, at twenty per cent. discount.

Now these remarkable offers of "cheap" goods are bona fide or they are not. If they are not made in good faith, but are intended to deceive and entrap unwary customers it would indicate a low condition of morals on the part of the merchants. If the goods can be bought at the prices indicated it shows that the merchants themselves are on the verge of bankruptcy and are sacrificing their goods for the sake of obtaining ready money at any cost; or that they are purchasing their supplies from manufacturers who are probably in similar condition; or that the consuming public have been paying very much more than a fair profit to the merchants. Which is it? In the production of all these lines of goods named labor imparts to them their chief value. Without such labor furniture could not be manufactured from the rough lumber, and when furniture is offered at a discount of twenty per cent. below previous prices, either the makers or the sellers are in a hot box, and are compelled to raise money at any sacrifice, or the purchasing public have been paying twenty per cent. or more above the intrinsic value of the goods. The same facts apply to the other articles, particularly to such as ladies' wrappers, which are "sacrificed" at ninety cents a piece. It is a very skimp wrapper that contains only nine yards of goods, and it is a very cheap article of prints that can be bought at five cents per yard, therefore, in a ninety cent wrapper, one half the price, or forty-five cents, represents the cost of thread, buttons, trimming, the labor of making and the profit to the manufacturer and the retail merchant. How much, pray, can it be possible for the poor working girl to earn on such a job? It would require exceeding nimbleness on the part of the average working girl to make a half dozen such garments within the ordinary working hours of a day; and when the wearers of these "cheap" goods buy them at the prices indicated they should bear in mind that this cheapness is exceedingly costly to the poor girls—perhaps it is at the expense of that which should be more precious to them than even life itself. Alluding to these "cheap" wrappers the merchant proclaims to his prospective purchaser: "Of course, this is no price; the seamstress' bill would mean more" than his price if the garment were made at home. And so it would; and the seamstress would undoubtedly obtain much better pay for doing such work if it were not that such an insane and silly

stress is not always laid on "cheap goods," as though cheap labor was not the curse of any land. Hood's "Song of the Shirt" very truthfully depicts the condition of these unfortunate working girls.

This journal has always combatted and opposed all policies and influences that would tend to encourage or produce such "cheapness" as is here alluded to. No country can enjoy its fullest measure of prosperity where the laboring classes are insufficiently paid. Through them, with the assistance of capital, wealth is created, and any policy that tends to enrich the few at the cost of the degradation and distress and impoverishment of the laboring classes is inherently wrong and should be remedied. The chief reason why such articles as are manufactured by girls and women are so cheap in Toronto is because the duty imposed by the tariff upon such goods is not high enough to keep out foreign made goods; and these, the product of the blood and sweat labor of other countries are brought into Canada and sold in such strong competition with the products of home labor as to produce the situation here described. It is silly for people to make appeals "for humanity's sake" in behalf of poor ill-paid working girls, unless it be to correct the evil by shutting out the pauper made goods of foreign countries by a tariff wall which would give the home market to our own people. True humanity lies in this direction.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE total output of beet sugar in the United States this year is estimated at 20,000,000 pounds and over.

ACCORDING to the New Orleans *Picayune*, Louisiana produces more than eleven-twelfths of all the sugar raised in the United States.

THE *Chicago Tribune* thinks it safe to say that in a year or two a dozen States will contain beet sugar refineries which will manufacture all the sugar required for consumption in those States.

PROFESSOR SAUNDERS, of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Ottawa, has been instructed by the Government to make investigations into the whole question of the sugar beet and beet sugar industry in Canada.

It is not likely that the retail price of refined sugar will ever again be above five cents per pound in the United States; and American agriculturalists will never rest satisfied until they produce all the sugar required for that country.

ACCORDING to results already arrived at, it is a fore gone conclusion that Professor Saunders' report to the Government, anent the sugar beet question, will be of such a character as to induce the Government to give the industry such encouragement as is accorded to it in other countries.

ONE of the great needs of Canada at this time is to have a