

that storekeeper signs a chattel mortgage,—the third, and last step is the inevitable result, loss of independence. Such is the testimony of thousands who have failed on these lines.

The man who refuses to give any sort of preference to any house, saying to himself—"if my credit is not such as to enable me to procure the needed accommodation from my banker, I had better either reduce my operations to the size of my credit, or get out of business entirely is to be admired and respected." Such men are business men,—they keep in their own legitimate channel, and force jobbers to keep in theirs.

THE PAST AND THE FUTURE.

At the recent dinner of the Press Association held in Toronto, Hon. G. W. Ross, minister of education for Ontario, in an exceedingly eloquent address remarked that the Dominion of Canada contained over one third of the area of the British Empire or 430,703 square miles more than the area of the United States, leaving out Alaska; our inland lakes being greater than many European kingdoms. We have forests, he said, which the avaricious eye of the lumberman has not seen and mineral resources, the value of which no assayer has yet been able to determine, our agricultural resources being only limited by the demands of humanity, and our harvests of the deep—our fisheries—limited only by the courage and industry of our fishermen. It is upon the manner in which we utilize these resources that our future will depend, and at a time like the present it behoves each and every one of us to see to it that their keeping is not entrusted to men who—no matter their party name or their political complexion—are unfitted for the immense responsibility.

On the one hand those who may perhaps best be described as the "outs" present as their policy a combination of free trade, protection and reciprocity; free trade in raw materials, which, if manufacturers are taxed, means protection pure and simple. It is to be accompanied or followed by free trade as in Great Britain, or by no protection at all. At the same time, we are to move towards a reciprocity which the ministerialists allege in the absence of a tariff lover, will not be given to us. This would ultimately and logically mean that in a period of temporarily low prices the world over, when all the industries need to be especially protected against the surplus of agricultural and industrial products, the lowest tariff is not unlikely to be to be made lower still, or entirely removed.

The "ins" on the other hand offer us the

fixed national policy under which the country has, it is conceded, prospered since its inauguration in 1878, it having built up our industries until after a period of fifteen or sixteen or sixteen years of good times, they are in a position to as it were stand alone, the average rate of taxation being to-day but $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more than the tariff for revenue which from 1873 to 1878 permitted then existing manufactures and other industries to be ruined because the Dominion had become the slaughter market for U. S. surplus products. In 1873 the United States had a high tariff, and that of Canada was low. Sir Richard Cartwright, the then finance minister, when asked to do something shrugged his shoulders and declared that he could do nothing; his government being "but flies upon the wheel." The country made up its mind that this could no longer be tolerated, and instead of "flies put men at the wheel" and their endeavors with those of the capitalists and workers of the country started the wheel revolving in the opposite direction so that very recently it has been possible to lower the tariff, though not to the extent that the finance minister at first proposed and the consuming public had reason to expect. This, some people say, was due to the pressure brought to bear upon the Government by the manufacturing interests. That tariff reduction alone appears to have been the cause of the revenue having fallen behind the expenditure during the last few months.

Although the balance is an apparently adverse one, the amount of the difference and a great deal more, too, has remained in the pockets of the people. As Hon. Mr. Wood, controller of inland revenue, showed in a recent speech in South Renfrew, Ontario, said the tariff is not now, nor has it ever been an excessive one, the present cheapness of goods being due to the competition which exists among the manufacturers, nearly every necessary having declined in price, making the purchasing power of a dollar much greater than ever before. If, indeed, he added, the present Government had charged the duty on tea which existed under the Mackenzie Government, we should have had five million dollars, or more than would meet the deficit that threatens us this year.

What we may ask has the taxation of Canada amounted to under the system which obtains? About \$5.80 per head contrasted with about \$9.50 per head upon all classes of the population of Great Britain? and what have we done with our money? The expenditure upon canal system of the Dominion thus far has been \$61,151,330, which has enabled ocean going vessels to go 2,384 miles from the seaboard; the Canadian merchant marine numbering 7,010 vessels,

with a tonnage of 1,051,214, while, including the great transcontinental road, we have 15,320 miles of railway in which the country has invested \$872,156,476. We need not go further into the immense public works of other descriptions that have been carried out. We hold the fifth place commercially among the nations of the world, Great Britain, the United States, Sweden and Norway and the German Empire being ahead of us, while France, Italy, Russia and Spain come after us.

We ought not to forget that while the United States has a population to the square mile of 21 persons, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland 312, France 187, Germany 237, and Belgium 485, the average of the British Empire and all her colonies being 33, the Dominion of Canada only averages $1\frac{1}{2}$ persons, Ontario with all its wealth and progress having but ten persons to the square mile. What is there not then before us in the century which will soon open upon us both in the way of population and in the way of financial and commercial prosperity, with the determining of this much depends upon the votes of the people as to the men and the policy by which they elect to be governed. We are far from saying that all this has been brought about by the fiscal policy of the present Government, though it has, it is claimed, materially contributed to the results which have been realized. The "outs," however, say that, were they afforded the opportunity, they would do still better, and that had they been at the helm of late years they would have accomplished a great deal more. Both parties will unquestionably seek in the campaign on which they are about to enter, to make their side appear the better cause. It is for the people to pay the utmost attention to the arguments of both sides and judge for themselves which of the policies propounded is, under the conditions in which we find ourselves, the most likely to do the best for the country at large, and the province of British Columbia in particular.

There is no reason why our people should be bound hand and foot by purely party obligations. As we have often pointed out, although on general principles the interests of the whole of the provinces are common, there are many particulars in which they differ and it is therefore the bounden duty of every British Columbian to see to it that, for the mere sake of a political name or the promotion of partizan politics, the special interests of what must some day be the banner province of the confederation are not prejudiced, and the certainties of her ultimate future unnecessarily delayed. The future of the Dominion and of the province of British Columbia are of far greater importance to us than the respective ambitions and dogmas of Sir Mackenzie Bowell and Hon. Wilfrid Laurier.