

paralyzed by the change as not to shake off its torpor, until some far-seeing leader introduced a line of manufacturing industries and set agoing again the wheels of commercial progress, without which community life is vain and meaningless. It is the saddest thing in life to see a ~~once~~ prosperous and opulent class of citizens reduced to inanition and poverty by a commercial change, scarcely understood by them in its banefulness. We have seen many such in these maritime towns. A stranded ship itself hardly gives one the same complete idea of absolute helplessness.

The reduction of the class of people we have been speaking of, and the removal of the army of longshore laborers, whose living depended on the coastwise trade, to other centres of activity --has no doubt greatly affected the agricultural interests of these provinces. The wealthy and the poor classes alike, are, of necessity, great consumers of farm products,—the former unrestricted by the changing condition of markets, the other as far as the earning capacity, for the most part, may permit them. We are firmly convinced that the United States first, and, later, Western Canada, have drained us of our population—a population which might well have found ground for the exercise of its energies in the development and maintenance of the agricultural, mining and shipping interests of the country for many years yet to come—very largely through a declining merchant marine power in our ports. The irritating part of it all has been, too, that, whilst we gave to this Great West our people, whilst we fell in with the governing power in their policy—"All else depends on the West"—we were by other features of this policy squeezed and hampered in everything that tended to home development. It seems passing strange that the statesmen and patriots of Maritime Canada—and they measure well up to the national standard—could have shut their eyes, so long to conditions altogether adverse to the country's progress, while their concern was so great for the other sections in which they could not so immediately be interested. Or, did they discern the disease, without being able to prescribe the remedy?

In any case, the attention which it assuredly merited was

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