

600,000) but five millions six hundred thousand (\$5,600,000) worth of farm produce to these people. And as even on the protectionists' own showing, the sole possible advantage that could accrue from selling those articles here, in place of abroad, would be the saving of the freight, amounting perhaps to, say six hundred thousand dollars, (\$600,000), we would arrive at this very remarkable result that for the sake of a most problematical profit of five or six hundred thousand dollars, the farmers of Canada are invited to submit to an increased taxation ranging between EIGHTEEN AND TWENTY MILLIONS (\$18,000,000 to \$20,000,000) per annum, being a dead loss at the rate of about FORTY DOLLARS for ONE DOLLAR!

The Loss to Our Shipping Interests by Protection.

Neither is this all, for it must be remembered that the effect of all these violent changes would be as clearly proved by the example of the United States, to reduce enormously the quantity of our shipping and the number of men employed in the carrying trade between this and other countries. Supposing our loss from these sources amounted to barely twenty-five thousand (25,000) men, seamen and carriers, thrown out of employment, we would have (as these are almost always full-grown men with families depending on them), a loss of one hundred and twenty-five thousand (125,000) souls, to set-off against the gain of one hundred and forty thousand (140,000), not to speak of the enormous diminution of purchasing power on the part of the great bulk of the people of Canada, caused by the violent subtraction of eighteen or twenty millions of dollars from their ordinary earnings.

Protection to Towns, Villages, and Cities.

Touching the "advantages of protection to villages, towns, and cities," in any case, unless a large increase of the farming population occurs, we possess to-day, as shown by our census returns, quite as many as the country requires. And so far from its being desirable to artificially stimulate their growth by laws which would deliberately divert both labour and capital from the useful and honourable pursuits of agriculture and ordinary mechanical work, to crowd our people into towns and cities. It is a well-established fact that no one thing has done more to delay the real progress of this country, and to prevent it from reaping the full benefit of its great natural resources, than the disposition of too many of the farming population to abandon agriculture, for the purpose of engaging in professional and mercantile pursuits. What we really want is more men and more capital employed in agriculture, conducted on more scientific principles; and no man can well commit a more unpatriotic act, or one more certain to inflict untold misery on his dupes, than to induce men who are able to obtain an honest livelihood by farming, to exchange so safe and respectable an occupation for the doubtful chances of city life. Commercial statistics show with the greatest plainness that the chances of success as between a farmer and a merchant, are very nearly a hundred to one in favour of the former; that for one farmer of ordinary industry and capacity who becomes bankrupt, twenty merchants are found to fail in business; and that the number of farmers who amass a comfortable competence is out of all proportion larger than that of merchants or professional men who are able to leave any visible property behind them.