

*Free Trade has been abandoned with disgust by every continental nation that ever tried it.*

duction of pig iron is doubled in Canada the market will be filled. Much iron is now imported in a slightly more advanced stage than pig, such as puddled iron, bar iron, &c., that might well be produced here if a plentiful supply of pig iron were at hand. Already there have been of late many and important additions to the works for puddling, conversion into to steel, rolling, &c. There is room for a very great increase of our smelting furnaces to supply this growing demand. Such facilities would also augment the consumption of iron by its being substituted for wood, stone, and other materials for bridges, buildings, and other purposes.

The production of steel in Canada, made from Canadian pig iron, which was in its turn smelted from Canadian ore with Canadian fuel, was in 1893, 14,700 tons; in 1894 it was 15,700 tons; and in 1895 it was 16,200 tons. For 1896 there will be a still greater increase of production, additional capital, plant, etc., having been provided to extend the industry.

Here, again, a large amount of labour is employed, mostly skilled, and the majority family men, a great number of additional consumers, thus increasing the home market to be supplied by the farmers of Canada.

In the rolling mills, a careful estimate gives 2,557 men as employed, earning nearly a million dollars yearly, viz, \$997,310, the capital invested being \$3,416,000, and the raw material aggregating 36,096 tons. The census of 1891 showed employees, 2,106, wages, \$843,500, and capital, \$2,307,540, so that the growth of the industry in the five years has been very great, and the increase is now being accelerated by new works and increased facilities in old establishments. In 1881 there were only 700 employees, \$19,020 wages, and \$697,500 capital.

If it is assumed that two-thirds of these 2,557 employees are married men with the average family, there would be more than 9,000 persons depending directly upon this industry, and requiring to be supplied by the farmers of Canada, among others, as in the case of makers of pig iron and of those converting it into steel. But this is not all, for the home supply of pig iron and steel, and the output of the rolling mills, as they increase, give a further stimulus to other industries

using iron, and rapidly augment the numbers drawing their living from all these industries, and having to be supplied with clothing, shelter and food.

### **The N. P. Has Benefitted the Workingman.**

The following figures, taken from the census returns for the Province of Ontario, show at a glance how the National Policy has benefitted the workingman :

In Industrial Establishments having a yearly output of \$50,000 and over :—

	1871.	1881.	1891.
Employees.	20,725	34,107	63,774
Wages . . .	\$6,077,562	\$10,652,157	\$23,047,181
Average . .	293·24	312·31	361·88

In Industrial Establishments having an output of \$25,000 to \$50,000 a year :—

	1871.	1881.	1891.
Employees.	7,614	10,182	12,764
Wages . . .	\$2,202,766	\$ 2,991,659	\$ 5,545,192
Average . .	289·30	293·81	338·60

In Industrial establishments having an output of \$12,000 to \$25,000 a year :—

	1871.	1881.	1891.
Employees.	10,200	13,998	17,301
Wages . . .	\$3,081,721	\$3,877,109	\$5,545,192
Average . .	\$ 262·91	\$ 277·00	\$ 320·51

In the largest group the wages increased in 20 years 23.2 per cent. Of that increase 6.5 per cent was gained in the first ten years, and 16.7 per cent. in the second ten years.

In the next group the increase in twenty years was 17 per cent of which 1 per cent was in the first ten years and 16 per cent in the second ten years.

In the next group the increase in twenty years was 21.9 per cent of which 5.4 per cent was in the first ten years and 16.5 per cent in the second ten years.

This increase of about 16 per cent is maintained for all the industrial establishments having an output from 12,000 to 50,000 and over.

It may, therefore, be fairly stated that the increase in wages during the ten years, 1881-91, was 16 per cent.

### **Results of Free Trade in Great Britain.**

“Cheapness, cheapness, cheapness and competition! These have been the parrot cries of Free Traders; and excellent cries they are for the million and a half lucky

*In 1878, a pound of butter bought, only from one to two pounds of sugar. To-day it will buy four or five pounds.*