

ployers yesterday. He says that one reason of a scarcity here is that the workmen are going to the States, not, as was stated by one of the deputation, because they can get higher wages there so much as because they are not given a chance to work under as fair conditions here.

I wish the Minister of Labour were present to hear what the secretary of the Ontario Bureau of Labour has to say with regard to these conditions.

Mr. Glockling added that he knew one Ontario city where there were forty or fifty 'skilled mechanics' walking the streets because they were not being given a chance to work under what they considered fair conditions.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. What does that mean?

Mr. CLARKE. It means that the conditions under which they live at the present time are so unfavourable, in their estimation, that they prefer either not to work, or to go to the United States for better conditions.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. What are the conditions under which they live?

Mr. CLARKE. The hon. gentlemen when they came into office, declared they would make this a cheap country to live in, but they have increased the cost of living substantially to these men, the burden of taxation which has been placed upon them is very much heavier, as the hon. gentleman knows.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. And the hon. gentleman wants to increase it.

Mr. CLARKE. I gave him the figures two or three weeks ago in connection with that matter. But I leave it to the hon. gentleman to settle with Mr. Glockling, his political friend; and I wish the Minister of Finance would communicate with him and ask for the reasons why our workmen still continue to go to the United States, and why the conditions under which they labour are not as favourable as they are in the neighbouring republic.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I understood my hon. friend to say it was not a question of wages. He says they go away because the cost of living is greater here.

Mr. CLARKE. I am quoting from Mr. Glockling. It is Mr. Glockling who says it is not a question of wages, but it is the unfair conditions under which they labour. I have shown by these extracts that the exodus has not by any means ceased, but I hope to live to see the day when it will be completely stopped, or almost completely stopped. I hope to live to see the day when the policy of Canada for Canadians will be accepted throughout the Dominion. But that can only be done, I think, by giving our manufacturers an adequate protection, such as they do not receive at the present time. I think if abundant employment is found in Canada to-day for our

workingmen, it is due to the fact that the minister and his associates did not have the courage of their convictions, but that when they came into office, realizing their responsibilities, they determined to leave the protective policy which they found on the statute-book, practically as it was. I believe that if there was a readjustment of the tariff, instead of bringing in annually \$80,000,000 or \$100,000,000 of manufactured goods, the product of foreign workshops, into this country we would be able to manufacture the bulk of those articles, and find employment for a larger number of workmen many of whom now go to the United States and the conditions of life would be improved because our manufacturers would have control of the home market.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We will have to make allowances for the hon. gentleman at this late hour indulging in such a discussion because he finds that the conditions are very embarrassing to him. He is trying to persuade himself that there is something in the condition of the industries of the country that requires improvement, but he forgets that never in the history of Canada have the industries been so prosperous, that never has labour been so much in demand, that never have wages been so high and that never has the condition of the workmen been so good. With that fact before the eyes of every man in the Dominion we will leave the question.

Mr. CLARKE. I would be glad to leave it except for this fact that the hon. Minister of Finance knows as well as any member of this committee or anybody in Canada that since the hon. gentleman came into office the denunciation of protection as the policy of this country has practically ceased, that the hon. gentleman's colleagues gave an assurance to the manufacturers of Canada on the eve of the election of 1896 that if the Liberal party were returned to power there would be no change made in the tariff inimical to their interests, and if these manufacturing industries are prosperous it is because those managing them have been given the assurance that the Liberal party for eighteen years had been preaching a doctrine that they did not intend to carry out, that they had been saying what they did not mean and that as a result of their refraining from carrying out their policy those who had capital to invest invested it more freely than in 1896 when every manufacturer in Canada had to fight for his life.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. If that be the condition why does the hon. gentleman want to change it?

Mr. CLARKE. Because we think the conditions could be made much better.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The conditions undoubtedly could be changed if we went back to the dark days of the so-called