

This is made manifest by the following facts, namely :—

1. The expenditure on account of able-bodied pauperism has been brought down from nearly a quarter of a million dollars (expended by the late Government in 1898) to the insignificant sum of Fifteen hundred Dollars per annum.
2. The earnings of the people have increased from Thirty-nine Dollars and Fifty-seven cents per capita in 1899 to Forty-four Dollars and Twenty-four cents this year.
3. The earnings of a family, taking the average of five to each, has increased from One hundred and Ninety-seven Dollars in 1899 to Two hundred and Twenty-One Dollars in 1904.
4. The Imports have increased from Seven millions Four hundred and Ninety-seven Dollars in 1899 to Nine millions Four hundred and Eighty thousand Dollars in 1904.
5. The Exports have increased from Eight Millions Six hundred and Twenty-seven thousand Dollars in 1899 to Ten millions Three hundred and Eighty thousand dollars in 1904.
6. The deposits in the Newfoundland Savings Bank for the year 1899 amounted to Two hundred and Sixty-nine thousand Eight hundred and Thirteen Dollars, while the deposits for the past year were Four hundred and Sixty-nine thousand Six hundred and Ninety-four dollars, being an increase of Two hundred thousand Dollars. The total amounts on deposit in the Newfoundland Savings Bank at the end of 1899 was One million One hundred and four thousand Seven hundred and Eighty-eight Dollars, and at the end of the past year One million Five hundred and Ninety-one thousand Nine hundred and Twenty-four dollars, being an increase for the four years of nearly a half a million dollars. There are three other Savings Banks in the city whose receipts are not published, but I have reason to know that they show a corresponding increase.

While the greater volume of trade and commerce indicates the prosperity of those engaged therein, the increase in the deposits of our Savings Banks reflects the improved condition of the working man.

As evidencing the widening avenues of employment for the people of the country, I would point to the fact that the value of the Exports of Lumber have increased from One hundred thousand Two hundred and Eight dollars in 1899 to Three hundred and Seventy thousand Five hundred dollars in 1904; that the Exports of Minerals have increased from One million Forty-three thousand Dollars in 1899 to One million Two hundred and Forty-eight thousand Six hundred and Sixty Dollars in 1904; and that the Exports from the Whaling Industry have increased from Thirty-six thousand Four hundred and Twenty-eight Dollars in 1899 to Three hundred and Sixty-five thousand Nine hundred and Fifty-three Dollars in 1904. It will hardly be questioned, I think, that this increased production represents increased labour, and that there is no feature of the situation more satisfactory than the immense improvement which has taken place in the condition of the working classes during the last four years.

This condition of the people, and of the laboring classes in particular, has been still further improved by the reduction in taxation made by the Government last session, which is equal to One Dollar per head of the whole population of the Colony. To the poorer classes it means more than One Dollar per head, for, as the largest consumers of flour and molasses, they derive the chief benefit from the free list.