

The people of those lands grow so much that they can afford to sell it to us very cheaply. This means cheap bread.

4. But at the time when bread was so dear there were laws called the Corn Laws, which kept foreign corn out of England.

5. Parliament passed these laws to help English farmers to get a high price for their corn. If foreign corn came in and was sold cheaply, it was certain that no one would buy the dear English corn. So the foreign corn was kept out, and then the English farmers could get a great price.

6. These laws made food very dear. The poor people, who had not enough to eat, thought them very cruel. But the mass of the people could not help themselves; they had no votes. As long as a man has no vote, he has no voice in the making or altering of the laws.

7. The chief power in Parliament was held by people who owned a great deal of land. The Corn Laws suited them very well, because as long as corn fetched a great price they could get a high rent for their land. For this reason they would not hear a word against such laws.

8. After a time a number of men joined together to alter this. They said that it was very wrong to