

tifies itself with the Grit party of the Dominion and does what it can in the interest of that party," and that the Mowat (Ontario) government made itself a donkey engine to be worked in the interest of the Grit party of the Dominion. We do not discuss to what extent this may be true, but if it is the policy of the Grit government of Ontario to foster the pig iron industry in the province by giving a liberal bonus upon the production of the article, we hope that they may be brought to appreciate the necessity of performing other and kindred acts in the interest of other industries; and we also hope that if this spirit of protection, as exemplified by Sir Oliver's pig iron policy, is to become a donkey engine in Dominion politics, it will be of sufficient power to effect much good in that direction.

DON'T THROW STONES.

This journal has stirred up quite a hornet's nest of Conservative newspapers because we have declared our approbation of the action of Sir Oliver Mowat, while premier of Ontario, in promising a bounty of one dollar per ton upon pig iron made in the province of ores mined in the province. Sir Oliver's action in the matter was so identical with what might have been expected of Sir John Macdonald or Sir Charles Tupper, under the same circumstances, that we could not but declare that in that action at least, Sir Oliver was quite as good a protectionist as either of the other gentlemen named, whom we are all pleased to look upon as the fathers and founders of the National Policy.

The great trouble with our esteemed contemporaries is that while they are, perhaps, good enough Conservatives, and, as such, declared supporters of the National Policy, they are not willing to have the co-operation of any in upholding and practising the National Policy unless they declare their adherence to the Conservative party. They barricade the doors of their party against any who might be willing to act with it in the very life and spirit that is supposed to characterize it, if in all things compliance is not made with the demands of the bosses of the party; and this bossism is brought to bear upon both he who, not being a declared Conservative, acts in the spirit of the National Policy, as Sir Oliver Mowat has done, and upon those who, being believers in the National Policy, venture to express approbation of what Sir Oliver did.

Actions speak louder than words, and to our mind the Liberal who, by his actions, shows himself to be a supporter of the National Policy, is more to be commended than the Conservative party and Conservative newspapers, who do nothing more than disclaim in favor of that policy and nothing more. Whether is it better for a man to declare that he is opposed to the theory of protection and at the same time do all he can to sustain protection, or to perch upon the pinnacle of the temple and proclaim the beauties of protection, and at the same time scold at and berate the man who practices protection although he may not belong to the party. There is no consistency in this, and if Sir John Macdonald were alive he would hold up such doings to ridicule. Which character is to be commended the most? We are told that a certain man had two sons, and he said to the first: "Son, go work to-day in my vineyard," but the son said, "I will not," but afterwards he repented and went; and he came to the second son and said likewise, and he answered and said, "I go, sir,"

but went not. Which of the twain did the will of his father? If Sir Oliver, declaring that he is not in favor of protection, practises protection, is he not to be praised for so doing rather than professional protectionist politicians and professional protectionist political newspapers that accomplish nothing for protection? We commend the study of our parable to those of our esteemed contemporaries who are inclined to throw stones at us.

THE BURDEN ON THE WORKINGMAN.

There is much food for thought in a statement recently made by Mr. T. A. Meysenburg of the Tudor Iron Works, St. Louis. In estimating the damage done to the iron industry by the silver agitation he said:

"There is not a product that influences labor as much as iron and steel. The iron ore in the mines probably represents a value of 50 cents per ton; labor spent upon the mining, handling and carrying to consumption is equal to about \$3. To reduce the iron ore costing \$3.50 into pig metal, fuel and limestone are used, representing in their cost 90 per cent. of labor, so that a ton of pig iron, using ore at \$3.50, and costing \$11.50 per ton, means about \$10 paid to labor.

"Converting pig metal into steel and iron again represents mainly labor, so that from a ton of steel or iron, costing from \$20 to \$23 per ton, labor receives not less than \$18 or \$21.

"It is useless to follow this matter any further than to say that many dollars go to labor for making iron or steel into utensils, stoves, knives, springs, etc., for every ton produced.

"Bearing these facts in mind one can readily see to what extent paralyzation of the iron business affects the labor of the country, since every ton not produced deprives the workingman of about \$20, or \$20,000,000 for every 1,000,000-ton contraction. The production of iron has decreased at the rate of about 5,000,000 tons per annum, representing to labor the round sum of \$100,000,000."

The estimate made by Mr. Meysenburg is entirely within bounds, says The Iron Age. Not only is the labor lost to which he refers, but by following the line of reasoning still further one is almost dazed in the contemplation of the loss to labor by the diminished activity in the form of transportation, distribution and remanufacture. A labor loss of \$20,000,000 on every 1,000,000-ton contraction in the annual output of finished iron is conservative. Corresponding contractions in other branches of productive industry carry with them similar results, although not so great as in the case of iron and steel, whose production and manipulation involve so much labor. Hundreds of millions have thus been lost by labor in the past few months by the senseless agitation of the change of our monetary standard. Capital has suffered keenly, but labor has borne a heavy share of the burden. Capital, however, will in time repair the ravages made, but labor will never make good its waste. The workingman only has his labor to sell, and every day he passes in idleness he consumes a part of his earning power which can never be replaced.

Mr. George Johnson, the Dominion Statistician, is compiling figures in regard to the pork packing industry of Canada, which were desired by the Pork Packers' Association at Toronto.