

THE BURDENS OF THE PEOPLE.

'As to the protective principle Mr. Fielding practically abandoned the party platform and his own alleged principles when he made his budget speech in 1897. In introducing the present tariff he then announced that it was not the intention of the Government "to propose any great reduction in the tariff as applied to those countries which are not disposed to trade with us."

The tariff announcement carried out this statement. The declaration of the party and its leaders have led the people to believe that there would be a great reduction in the duty on such articles of common use as coal, coal oil, boots and shoes, agricultural implements, farm machinery, cotton goods and woollen goods. The country had been told of cotton combines, farm implement combines, of the coal barons, of the sugar trusts and of the oil monopolies. The following comparison between the Foster tariff and Mr. Fielding's tariff as applied to some of these articles, will show how far the present Government has relieved the necessities of life.

	Foster Tariff.	Fielding Tariff.
Farm Machinery	20 per cent.	20 per cent.
Soft Coal	60c. per ton	53c. per ton.
Burning Oil	6c. per gal.	5c. per gal.
Boots and Shoes	25 per cent.	25 per cent.
Manufactures of Brass ..	30 per cent.	30 per cent.
Carpets	25 and 30 per cent.	35 per cent.
Grey Cottons	22½ per cent.	25 per cent.
White Cottons	25 per cent.	25 per cent.
Printed Cottons	30 per cent.	35 per cent.
Sewing Cotton	12½ per cent.	15 per cent.
Woollen Cloth	5c. per lb. and 25 per cent.	35 per cent.

The list can be continued to show that no reduction has taken place in the general tariff, and that where changes were made in respect to goods which are largely imported from Great Britain the duties were increased. It will be shown later that this was done in order to take away the advantage that the preferential clause would otherwise have given to the mother country.

As to the effect of the Fielding tariff on Canadian conditions, it may be said that the people of Canada are paying to-day, higher prices for every necessary of life than they paid in 1893 or in 1896.

Every monopoly, trust and combination that existed in 1893 is still in active operation, and several others, much more injurious in their effects, having been called into existence.

The party which promised to make coal oil free has reduced the duty by one cent only, and at the same time aided the transfer of the oil production of Canada to the control of a foreign monopoly which has raised the price to the people, "oppressed the masses to the enrichment of the few," and taken in one year an extra million dollars and more out of the people.