

They are, as a rule, a sickly lot of women, boys and girls wearing out a diseased life for mere pittance. In the Hudon Mills out of 500 hands employed, 50 men cannot be found. The wages vary from 20 cents a day to \$1. A good weaver, who can keep four looms going, earning the latter sum. Compared as to importance with the

LUMBER INDUSTRY,

the cotton milling sinks into insignificance, nor is it by any means so profitable to the people. Nine-tenths of the value of the lumber is paid out for the labour that produces it, and is spent in the country, while 50 per cent. of the value of cotton is sent out of the country for raw material. Yet the tariff works injury to the lumber trade. All materials employed in producing it are increased in price, thus the blanket the lumberman formerly bought for \$2.50 or \$2.75, he cannot now get under \$4, and so with his axe, and all his necessities. The enhanced price of lumber is accounted for in this way, and goes, not into the pockets of any one engaged in that trade, but into the stuffed safes of a few petted industries. We in Montreal are in danger of measuring the effects of the N. P. by the cotton mill and the sugar factory; but these contribute to the country but as one in a 100. The whole country is unjustly taxed; the farmers, the lumberers, and the entire consuming class, which constitute the immense proportion of the nation, that one or two favourite industries and capitalists may flourish. The policy of the Liberal party is to deal out equal justice to all, and to rightly distribute the burdens of taxation. It should be kept in remembrance that a revenue tariff, such as must exist in this country, affords a very large measure of incidental protection. The 17½ per cent. of the Cartwright tariff enabled the Hudon Company to make profits of 27 per cent. in 1878, and any industry which cannot exist without adding a heavier taxation than 17½ per cent. scarcely deserves fostering at the expense of the great mass of the people. It cannot be denied that every single factory erected under the protection system is paid for at a very heavy rate by the consumers. It is all very well for the factory-owners to appeal to the patriotism of the masses for such a result, but not one cent does their own patriotism lead them to expend for the support of the masses. There has been a factory craze in the land. The Conservatives promised that there would be a factory on every hill-side, and the people were delighted. But factories are not altogether a benefit. (Hear, hear.) While we import our goods we support factories elsewhere, and send as pay the product of our labour,

not money as the Protectionists falsely teach. If we establish the foreign industry in Canada by protection, two things result. First, we withdraw a certain number of our men from the employment the country naturally gives them, such as lumbering, farming, etc., and set them at an employment for which they are not so well fitted. Thus, one industry is damaged and we produce another article at a heavier cost, for, as a result of our not having natural facilities for that industry, we shall have to employ a hundred men to do the work eighty men could do where there are natural facilities. Then it is apparent the country gains nothing unless we bring the foreign labour, the foreign operatives, too. Otherwise we simply transfer labour from one industry to another. Secondly, the mass of the people are taxed to support a certain branch of trade, and the country loses the revenue it would otherwise derive from the importation of the foreign article. The factories, too, are sources of social and political disorders, and we have already had instances of this in the strikes at the Hudon and Valleyfield mills. It is a mistake to consider that prosperity and numerous population depend on manufactures. Holland, the most thickly town-sited country in the world, owes its multitudes entirely to commerce and agriculture. In France, a larger per cent. of the people are engaged in agriculture and commerce apart from factories than in any other country. Of cities, Chicago, San Francisco, Sidney, London and New York, owe their prosperity to commerce. In the meantime it is the duty of the Liberal party to demand a readjustment of taxation. While remembering the manufacturing industries we have and that are suited to this country, we remember also the farmer at the plough, the fisherman at his nets, and the lumberman in the forest. We protest against the promotion, growth and prosperity of one interest at the expense of all. We protest against a policy which injures the great iron industry and the manufacture of agricultural implements, by an insane tax on raw material, on coal and pig iron. We protest against a Tariff that works injury to the mill owners, by imposing a restriction on importation of wheat, by which certain large mill owners are given a monopoly of grinding in bond; which injures the lumberman by increasing the cost of his supplies; which injures the fisherman by imposing heavy duties on his food and clothing, while he derives no benefit whatever from this policy; which injures the farmer and the railways by placing a tax on inter-communication. We protest against a policy which has worked mischief to three-fourths of our manufactures and is killing their export trade;