

unfortunately a class to be found in them at all times, and unfortunately there are numbers of them who appeal to the charity of those who are disposed to be charitable.

"A responsible employee of the foundry said that in his opinion there was lots of work for all men who are of good character and men who wanted work."

Then I find that:

"About four hundred hands are employed at the mill of Messrs. Belding, Paul & Co., silk manufacturers. Of these about one-fifth are men. There has been no decrease in the number of employees as compared with this time last year," said an official. "There have been no more applications for work than formerly, and there is no more distress among the bread-winners." The official who tendered this information stated that business is not as much demoralized here as in the States. They have had some employees who went to the other side for work return to them after a short time with the intelligence that in the face of the high rate of living and other similar circumstances they were unable to obtain as good a living as in Canada."

Then I find that both of the sugar refineries were practically working at full time. Then I have the statement of a gentleman whose opinion will be received by hon. gentlemen on the other side as of some value—Mr. J. K. Ward, the gentleman who was the liberal candidate in west Montreal at last election, and who, if report speaks truly, will be the liberal candidate at the next election. He says:—"So far as the cotton trade"—and he is largely interested in that trade:

"So far as the cotton trade was concerned, the mills were not employing their full number of hands; the Merchants' company were running about two-thirds of their machinery, the St. Ann's about one-third or a half and the Hudon about two-thirds. Of course in all cases the best hands have been kept on and the inferior or unsteady ones have been dismissed."

In the timber trade, in which Mr. Ward is also largely engaged:

"There was the usual slackness, but married men often refused to go out in the lumber camps, where they would get good wages, and preferred to remain at home in idleness. He did not think there was very much more than the usual number of unemployed work people."

Then Mr. P. W. St. George, who is city surveyor, and is in a peculiarly favorable position to know something of the labor market in Montreal, says:

"That he was of the opinion that there are no more laboring men out of employment now than there have been during the past few winters. He remarked that after the recent heavy snowstorm his foremen had been unable to procure the required number of men to clear the streets, and when the ice roads were made, considerable difficulty was experienced in procuring laborers."

Now, that does not look as if people were seriously—there are always a number of them—as if an unusual or abnormal number of people were out of employment. Mr. King, of Rogers & King, founders, said:

"He believed that the want said to be existing in Montreal was not greater than that usually found at this period every year. Investigation would show that the majority of those out of employment were laborers who worked along the docks in summer. The works of his firm are running full time, and employing over 110 men. They have not discharged a hand, nor have the wages suffered any reduction. A greater boom in business is anticipated at an early date."

Mr. A. F. Gault, the well known director of the Hochelaga cotton mills, said:

"We have not discharged one hand on the score of retrenchment during the season, but, on the contrary, want more weavers; our staff now numbers about 900 operatives a Hochelaga, all told, and 400 at St. Ann's, all working on full time, and at current wages; any rumor of distress through discharge of hands from our mills is without the slightest foundation."

Now, sir, it will be seen, with regard to that, that the condition of things in that large manufacturing and commercial centre is about the same as the year before, and certainly no one will pretend to say that the condition of things the year before was a condition of distress or depression in connection with the business of the country. (Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman made complaint as to

THE FUTURE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Referring to their failure in the past, as he described it, he said there was no reference whatever to the question of a treaty with the United States, and he evidently thought that was, on the part of the finance minister, a serious omission in a budget speech in a time like the present. The hon. gentleman is quite right in saying that this year we shall enter on a new condition of things; that the lapsing of the Washington treaty will close the markets of the United States to the fish of the Maritime provinces and Quebec. But, what I am bound to say, is rather remarkable, is to hear these hon. gentlemen who denounced, as we all remember they did denounce, the Washington treaty when it was adopted; who charged the first minister with having been a recreant to his trust as a Canadian, in consenting to that Washington treaty at all, new conjuring up enormous evils as certain to result from the lapsing of the very treaty whose enactment in the first instance they so strongly condemned. (Cheers.) On the elections of 1872, as I remember very well, their strong