

it will enable them to charge higher prices for their products. If it did not it would be of no value to them. But the object of the manufacturers' policy being to secure higher prices, the object of the Conservative policy, which is identical with that of the manufacturers, must be the same. Therefore, the Conservative policy is to increase the prices of the articles required by the Canadian consumer.

LIBERAL POLICY.

The Liberal policy upon the tariff question is crystallized in the present tariff.

When the Liberal party met in the great National Convention, held at Ottawa in June, 1893, the commercial situation of the country was fully and carefully considered, and it was declared that the highest interests of Canada demanded the removal of the policy then existent, which was founded upon the principle of protection and the substitution of a sound fiscal policy, which, while not doing injustice to any class, would promote domestic and foreign trade and hasten the return of prosperity to our people. It was also declared that the tariff should be reduced to the needs of honest, economical, and efficient government, and that it should be so adjusted as to make free or bear as lightly as possible upon the necessities of life, and should be so arranged as to promote freer trade with the whole world, *particularly with Great Britain and the United States.*

That, in substance, was the pronouncement or pledge of the Liberal party on the trade question; that was the message of the Liberal party to its leaders when they assumed the reins of power in 1896.

What has been the fulfilment?

The first step taken by the Government was the appointment of a committee of its members, comprising Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright, Hon. W. S. Fielding, and Hon. Wm. Paterson, to ascertain in an exact and definite way the precise situation of all classes and sections of the country and their actual needs. This committee held meetings in most of the principal cities and towns of the country, which were attended by representative men in all spheres of industrial life, who were given every opportunity of expressing their views.

Having completed their labors, the committee duly made its