

now than it would then ; it will buy a better spade, a better scythe, a better pitchfork to-day than it would in '78 ; it will go as far in paying for his horse-rake and will buy twice as many hand-rakes now as it would then ; it will buy more nails and go further towards paying for his cross cut saw ; it will go further towards paying his shoemaker's bill, and will buy a better undershirt to-day than it would then ; it will do more towards paying for his wheelbarrow, and it will buy a better washtub in 1896 than it would in 1878 ; it will go a great deal further towards paying for his sett of harness and will buy more wooden pails to-day than it would then ; it will to-day buy more coffee and twice as much tea as it would then ; it will buy a better axe, a better pair of overalls, more fruit jars and more starch than it would in '78. In a word, although the opening up of the fertile fields of India, South America, the Western States and our own Northwest has brought down the price of the farmer's bushel of wheat, the prices of almost everything he has to buy have been reduced in a still greater ratio by the keen competition in the manufacture of the same, in our own country, under the benign influence of the National Policy.

Mr. Laurier's Various Policies.

A PROTECTIONIST.

Mr. Laurier was a Protectionist in 1876. See Hansard of that year. The following are his own words :

"What my hon. friend has said as to my Protection proclivities is perfectly true, and I do not deny that I have been a Protectionist, which I am still. It is asserted by many and assumed by others that Free Trade is a Liberal principle, and Protection a Conservative principle. I beg to dissent from this doctrine. If I were in Great Britain I would avow Free Trade, but I am a Canadian, born and resident here, and I think we require Protection."

A COMMERCIAL UNIONIST.

Mr. Laurier was a Commercial Unionist in 1889. The following are his own words quoted from the *Globe's* report of his speech at Toronto in September of that year :

"The policy which we advocate, which we still continue to advocate is the removal of all commercial barriers between this country and the great kindred nation to the south. The Liberal party, as long as I have

anything to do with it, will remain true to the cause until that cause is successful. I will not expect to win in a day, but I am prepared to remain in the cool shades of opposition until this cause has triumphed."

A FREE TRADER.

Mr. Laurier was a Free Trader in January, 1895. The following are his own words quoted from a speech delivered in Montreal on the 22nd of that month :

"The Liberal party believe in Free Trade on broad lines, such as exist in Great Britain. And upon that platform, exemplified as I have told you, the Liberal party will fight its next battle."

An avowed Protectionist, a Commercial Unionist, solemnly promising to stand by the cause till it triumphed—it failed, and in five short years he abandoned it ; now, a Free Trader. Such in brief is the political history of the "Retorm" leader. Would it not be in order to ask : What next?

"Incidentals" in Free Trade England.

There are elements entering into the cost of living in Free Trade England, of which the Canadian workingman knows nothing. Among these may be mentioned stamp duties, licenses, etc. If he wishes a lease, or perhaps a deed for the property, he must have said document stamped by the Government with a stamp of the value of from 15 cents to \$2.50, according to the rental or price agreed upon. If he desires to go into domestic service, he, or his employer, must pay a Government license of \$3 75 per annum. If he has a bright intelligent son with a taste for the law, before he can become an indentured clerk to a solicitor, he must first pay the Crown the sum of \$400, and after completing his studies he must take out a further license, at a cost of \$250, before he can present a case in court or at the bar. If he wishes further to become a notary public he must be at a further cost of \$150. If, however, the young man's tastes run toward medicine a license fee of \$50 is required before he can practice. If he wants to get married and wishes a special license, in order to avoid being "cried" three Sundays in church, he must pay \$25 for it.

If the English workman has a little savings in the bank, he must pay the Govern-