

per ton, and firewood at \$16.00 per cord, will be upon us with all its lamentable results. A partial remedy can be found in a prompt reduction of the tariff on woollen and cotton goods, in the regulation of cold storage warehouses, in prohibiting the export of necessary foods, and in the fixing of prices by the Federal Court appointed last August.

#### WHY NOT REDUCE THE TARIFF?

The Union government at Ottawa will, before February, resolve into the two great parties,—the Conservative, possibly styled Unionists, and the Liberal party. Coalition governments are always of short duration. Even a great war does not bind securely. "The Cake is too small," as Disraeli said, for the hungry mouths of would-be ministers. The Derby coalition government of 1852, despite Disraeli's efforts, did not last a year. "All the Talents" were represented, but the people disliked coalitions. The only policy that will save the present Union government in Canada will be a reasonable accord to the farmers, and a definite lowering of duties on clothing and other necessities. Even though Sir Robert have all the talents of both parties in his cabinet, unless he nt

once regulate cold storage and reduce the tariff, his Coalition government will crack as Disraeli's did in 1852, and then will emerge a straight Conservative and a straight Liberty party. There is, however, a third great party in Canada which has evolved to immense proportions since 1913. The woman vote, the soldier vote, the labor vote, the farmer vote and thousands of others whom the war taxes and cost of living have awakened to independent thought,—these form the third or "Silent Party." They are independent of either the Conservative or the Liberal party. The Silent Party is to be reckoned with in the next federal election. This party will quietly insist that the profiteer be firmly dealt with; that if the western farmer be guaranteed \$2.15 per bushel for his wheat, then the eastern farmer should be protected on his potatoes; that criminal neglect in high places, such as the permitting of Canadian nickel to go to the enemy via the United States, should be punished even more severely than if it occurred in low places, and, finally, that the tariff on food and clothes should be reduced now and not wait for the delayed report of a Commission.