

manufacturers suffered? They have not, because we find that in the cases where they have not had an increase of wages they have had constant employment instead of short time as before. In many cases they have not only constant employment but they work overtime, and their position is better than it was before. How is it with the labourer to-day? He has plenty of employment in every part of the Dominion.

An hon. MEMBER.—No; no.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY.—Plenty of employment. I say that, and I am surprised that any hon. gentleman would say "no."

An hon. MEMBER.—No.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY.—No? Well, Sir, his position is infinitely improved, at all events, as compared with what it was before the adoption of the present Tariff. We do not now find the Government compelled to ask Parliament to authorize the construction of Public Works in order to give work to unemployed men. How is it, Sir, with reference to the merchant? The wholesale merchant tells us that his business has been doubled last year compared with that of 1879, and 50 per cent. larger than that of 1880; that he has had prompt payments, that there have been fewer bankruptcies, fewer losses, than he has known before. How is it, Sir, with the shipowner? The shipowners are at this moment probably feeling less the changes that have taken place in the industries and general interests of the country than any other people. There are circumstances effecting the shipping interests of Canada that can not well be reached by legislation. One is the fact that the iron ships of the old world are rapidly taking the place of the wooden vessels of the new, built by our own shipbuilders. We give a drawback that is more than sufficient to make up for the additional duty imposed on the materials used in the construction of ships, and I give as an evidence of this fact that but one builder out of the eighteen or twenty who sent in their claims for drawbacks asked more than the 75 cents allowed. The drawback gives the builder more than he pays in additional duty, and in many cases gives a return equal to the whole duty he pays.

Mr. KILLAM.—But the Government fixed an arbitrary drawback.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY.—Of course we did.