

that have ever disgraced the records or statutes of any country in the world, except the United States, has been legislated into the hands of not many more than a thousand, thus practically withdrawn from circulation from the development of the country, hence from the labourer and artisan, and all others depending upon them, and who are not except the fractional number for whose benefit, it would appear, all the others are now made to suffer—and this is Canadian statesmanship!!!

It is not the money given away to railway magnates and officials that is entirely responsible for this condition for have we not for eighteen years had a so-called protective policy by the operations of which a few hundred millions more have been legislated from the people and given to the few who from year to year, in many cases, are withdrawing it from circulation and, therefore, from the development of the country and the laborer and artisan. I may be allowed to state that capital engaged in manufacturing under a high protective tariff does infinitely more injury, to the people in the aggregate, than it can possibly do good for it becomes the great coercive factor in the unequal, unjust and dishonest distribution of the wealth of the country, and labor the foundation of all wealth is the greatest sufferer in the long run. Though the protectionist and capitalist at times affect great solicitude for the laborer I am inclined to the view of the great Russian Count, Tolstoi, who says that the capitalist will do everything for the laborer but get off his back. Any operation by which toll is taken from thousands and given by coercion to one individual and that without any equivalent in return by that individual is unjust and dishonest and, therefore, opposed to God's great ethical and economic laws. Any legislation that tends to make a few wealthy at the expense of the masses, as a great deal of the legislation in Canada has done, and without any equivalent to the masses to preserve the equilibrium of economic forces, will in time bring disaster to any country the people of which have the same characteristics as the Anglo-Saxon. The condition of the masses in England for fifty years before free trade was adopted, and their condition now fifty years after, is a complete answer to all the specious reasonings and sophistries of the interested protectionist. The coercive principle of protection is, and the results of its application are, both in an ethical and economic sense always substantially the same. It has now been on trial in Canada for eighteen years and, notwithstanding the protestations of the protectionists and millionaires to the contrary, every well informed man in the Dominion knows that the distress and poverty are something alarming, and to protection as much as to any other agency can it be attributed. I am quite within the mark in stating that in less than twenty years,