

## *The Fallacy of "Free Food" Exposed*

### FOOD TAXES NOT A BURDEN

Chief among the catch phrases being used by the Liberals and "Free Fooders" to enlist the sympathy of the unwary voter for Sir Wilfrid's latest Free Trade cure-all, is that so often heard in the mouths of Free Trade theorists about "the burden of food taxes." Driven from their position that "free food" would lower the cost of living, by plain ordinary common sense, and the whole teachings of fiscal science, they fall hack upon the feeble contention that their latest policy would at any rate lift "the hurden of food taxation" from the people.

Such specious reasoning can deceive none hut those who wish to be deceived. The slightest attempt at analysis will discover the falsity; and these errors have been repeatedly pointed out ever since the fallacy of free trade first raised up its head.

For a moment we will examine this contention of the Liberals and "Free Fooders" that we are "groaning" as they say, under "the hurden of food taxation."

Meats, poultry, eggs, fish, dairy products, and bread-stuffs, are the commodities which go to make up the dinner table of the average Canadian, and they form the fairest possible test of the extent to which our food is taxed.

### WHAT THE CONSUMER ACTUALLY PAYS IN TAXES ON FOOD

In 1913 the amount of duty collected on meats and poultry brought into Canada, totalled \$1,040,547. If you divide this among the population of Canada—which is eight millions—you will find that this terrible taxation of meat under which Canadians are supposed to groan, amounted to the insignificant sum of thirteen cents per head, for a whole year—the price of one-half pound of beef-steak.