

take place next year, we will first of all, before making any changes, have an ample and careful investigation of the conditions and needs of all classes, both manufacturers and farmers. The Government will also make an absolute departure. The present is a revenue tariff, and applies to all countries equally, with the exception of Great Britain. They intended to have a minimum and a maximum tariff. The minimum tariff will apply to all countries who are prepared to treat and trade with us on friendly and equal terms. The countries which are not prepared to deal fairly with us will come in under the maximum tariff. The Government will deal out measure for measure.

FREE TRADE AS THEY HAVE IT.

Mr. John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of America, who was recently in London investigating the condition of the working classes there, in a letter to the United States press, gives among other interesting matter, the following:

"In London hundreds of thousands of people swarm in dirty houses and rookeries, in cellars, in back alleys and in tumble-down shanties, compared to which some of the worst tenements of New York are like palaces. The overcrowding becomes worse with each succeeding year. If we count those people as overcrowded who live two or more in a room it will be found that considerably over a million of London's inhabitants would come within this class. There are many who live four in a room; many who live six and eight; and there are even places where twelve persons occupy one room.

"In certain sections of the city the overcrowding is even more intense. Taking London as a whole, thirty out of every hundred persons are living in an overcrowded condition—in other words, two or more to a room; in some sections 55 to 60 per cent. live in a similar state. In the famous Whitechapel district over one-seventh of the population are living four or more to a room.

"We hear terrible stories of how the poorer classes of this giant metropolis live, or rather exist, in the houses which their means permit them to occupy. A room may be divided between two families; lodgers may be taken in, or a bed may be leased or divided between a man who works by the day and one who works by night. It is impossible to see the conditions, and quite impossible to realize them.

"When one compares the average wage of the workman in London with the prices of rooms the latter seem extremely exorbitant. Rent of rooms seems to average from 50 cents to \$1 and more per week, and this rent often rises to one-fourth, and not infrequently to one-third, of the income of the workman. There is a movement now on foot to compel a minimum wage of 25 shillings (or \$6.25) per week, since below that sum it is practically impossible for a workingman to live with his family in any decent comfort in London.

"As one walks through the sections of the metropolis chiefly occupied by wage-earners one is forcibly and painfully struck by the pallor of many of the inhabitants and their sickly and anaemic condition."

The American Economist, commenting upon Mr. Mitchell's letter, says:

"This testimony of Mr. Mitchell is only corroborative of the testimony of both Englishmen and other Americans who have investigated the conditions and given the results of their investigations to the public. It shows what free trade will do toward leveling down a once rich and powerful country. For the past quarter of a century England has been seeing other countries under protection doing more and more of their own work, and in addition doing a larger and larger portion of England's work besides which her own laborers should have the opportunity to perform at living wages. But, where a man has to work for less than a dollar a day and has to pay a dollar a week for a single room, he can not be said to more than exist, particularly if he has a family of four or five dependent upon his earnings."

WATER POWER DEVELOPMENT.

The utilization of water power is undergoing a rapid development all over Canada, and manufacturers and others now fully realize that in the absence of coal for fuel purposes the abundance of water power is one of the most valuable resources of the country.

There are many factors that enter into the location of a water power plant other than the engineering difficulties which must be overcome. The expense of an undertaking of this character is considerable and to make it a paying investment great care must be exercised in calculating what the income of such a plant will be. The operating expenses of a water power plant are nearly constant compared to a steam plant. In the steam plant, the cost of coal used varies with the output, but with the water power plant there is usually no such factor to consider. In a water power plant, the interest on the money invested, taxes, insurance and depreciation are the principal items involved, other than running expenses. While these factors enter, of course, into every plant, the fact that they are the most important things to consider makes it important that a plant of this kind should have a commercial output equal to the maximum capacity of the machinery, the variable cost depending on the load being very small. The important feature of this problem is to obtain purchasers for the current produced and to sell it to them at a less cost than they can buy it elsewhere or produce it themselves. Many plants are depending on the future to make their operation profitable, it being hoped that the constant increase in the price of coal and freight rates will drive steam users to their locality. If this does not happen, there must necessarily be trouble ahead for many plants upon which fortunes have been spent, and upon which an income on the money invested is looked for.

A MISTAKE.

The Montreal Star, speaking of the organization of the Montreal branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, in 1899, says that at the time of that or-