

wages increased twenty per cent., and subject to a forced idleness for twenty per cent. of his time, is no better off, even when the actual amount of his pay only is considered, and when the high prices for the necessities of life caused by increased cost of production are taken into consideration, he is the greatest sufferer from what protectionists tell him is legislation specially on his behalf.

There is a law of supply and demand which must find its level like water, and which if put at defiance will cause trouble. The wider the range given for the operation of this law, the less cause there is to apprehend trouble, and advocates of protective tariff have but a poor comprehension of its workings, if they think they can confine them within the limits of the country over which any system of protective tariff extends. Slaughter sales in foreign markets, restricted production and other untrade-like arrangements may be attached as safety valves, but they will all be found insufficient to prevent trouble, and indeed an actual injury to the interests they are intended to protect.

We cannot say that Canada has as yet done much in the foreign market slaughter sale, nor, indeed, are our industrial interests backed by sufficient wealth, to admit of much of that being practised. But the whole industrial system of the Dominion is suffering now from the pressure of over production caused by protective bolstering, and before a healthy state is reached, our manufacturers will find, that the depressive reaction will cause them losses, which will more than counter-balance all the gains they made during the first waves of inflation.

THE CIVIC ELECTIONS.

There are a few ceremonious people in Winnipeg, who think that the city Board of Trade stepped aside from its proper sphere, and somewhat lowered its dignity in taking any action in connection with civic affairs. We suppose such people as a rule hold very fixed opinions, and it would be useless trying to convince them of the error of their views. It is fortunate, however, that the number of such people is very limited, and their displeasure the Board has no reason to fear. The unanimity with which the hundreds of ratepayers who attended the convention, endorsed the Board's action proved how truly grateful our citizens generally were

for the effort in favor of municipal reform, thus emanating from the first mercantile organization of Manitoba.

It is only natural that an organization of business men should be prompt to perceive mismanagement of the city's business, and they were only following out the policy of their every day life when they took steps to remedy the evil. Mercantile men above all others know the value of a good credit, and the pains necessary to preserve the same. It cannot be wondered at, therefore, that they should interpose to stop the ruin of the city's credit. In so doing they were only taking advantage of the rights possessed by all ratepayers, and the perfection with which they gave practical shape to their opinions, proves that their tact can be safely trusted in a matter where the interests of the citizens are at stake, while the fact that scarcely a member of the Board had any desire for municipal honors shows how disinterested was the spirit with which they took hold of the work. If they have accomplished nothing more, they gathered together the largest and by far the best representative connection which has as yet met in connection with Winnipeg municipal affairs, and it is idle talk to say, that the labors of such a convention will prove valueless. A full array of candidates for our civic offices has been put in the field backed by an organization, the united effort of which must ensure success. That they have selected the best available men in every instance, it would be folly to state. But they have certainly nominated candidates for mayor and council, who must, if elected, be a great improvement upon the "Baker's dozen" who have so muddled our municipal affairs during the past year.

That this ticket of the citizens will meet with bitter opposition in several quarters we must expect. The fact that it fails entirely to represent the bummer element is enough to bring out opposition. For that element unfortunately holds some power in Winnipeg, and it has been so pampered and petted of late, by men whom the citizens have placed in office, that it has grown arrogant. Arrogance usually precedes a fall, and all that is necessary to secure its collapse is unity on the part of the active business element of the city. Once secure thorough unanimity in that element, and no other combination of elements can stand against it either in a municipal or any other election.

CLEAN YOUR WHEAT.

If there ever was a doubt about the necessity for cleaning elevators throughout Manitoba it has certainly been dispelled during the past few weeks by the state in which wheat has reached not only Winnipeg but markets in the east. Eastern millers have been loud in their complaints about the dirty state in which wheat has come to them from the Northwest, and the eastern press, or at least that portion of it which is hostile to Manitoba, has not failed to make capital out of the grumbling of the millers. How much injury such reports will do to the country it does not require great foresight to see.

But it is not only the enemies of the Northwest who have complained of late about dirty wheat. Men who are deeply interested in the country's welfare have had good reason to complain. Since the crop of 1884 began to come to market it is safe to say that three out of every four cars were so dirty that they would fall short one or perhaps more grades of what they would reach under any system of inspection were they properly cleaned, and some were in such a state that no elevator company would have received them into store or issued a receipt for them. All this is the result of want of cleaning arrangements at points where grain is taken from the farmers, for it was a noticeable fact that grain coming from points where elevators were was in much better condition.

The grain movement of this season has settled the fact that our grain must reach market in a cleaned state or the whole country, and especially the farming community, must be heavy losers. The question naturally arises, where shall it be cleaned? and it is not very difficult to answer. Our farmers are too poor, and are likely to be so for years to come, to provide themselves with close barns, fanning mills and separators for the work. They have already spent enough on machinery, and most of them are carrying a load in consequence. The cleaning must, therefore, take place at the country grain market, and every effort to establish a flat warehousing system is a pull against the best interests of the Northwest. A cheap elevator with thorough cleaning arrangements is absolutely necessary, and the man who constructs such at any point confers a boon upon the surrounding farmers, and need have no fear about making a paying investment. The managers of the C.P.R. make blunders at times, but they are certainly working for the welfare of the country when they set themselves against the construction of flat warehouses on their track.