

ation which you must pay if you drink or smoke, neither of which you are obliged to do, and I believe the average farmer's and workingman's family in this country is a sober family and pays little or nothing of the Drink tax.

Then \$1,624,000 is paid for high class luxuries, not one single cent of which you pay, because the average farmer's or workingman's family does not buy silks, satins or jewelry, so that in deducting these, what may be called voluntary and unnecessary taxes from the \$25,000,000 we have left \$15,000,000 at which rate the average family need pay only \$14.63 instead of Mr. Blake's \$45, so that today we find that those who drink and smoke and buy high class luxuries pay nearly one-half of the whole taxation. Let us next enquire whether it is true that the average family is highly taxed upon the prime necessities of life. Take your breakfast table; what is there that is heavily taxed? Your tea and your coffee are not taxed—there was a tax on them while Mr. Mackenzie was in power, and if you last year had been compelled to pay upon your tea and coffee the rate of tax you paid in 1878, when Mr. Blake's party was in power, it would have taken over \$1,000,000 out of the people of Canada to pay that tax alone, but today under the present Government these articles are free.

The eggs on your breakfast table are untaxed; your potatoes, butter, cheese, milk, fish, pork, beef, mutton, your native fruit—please tell me on which of these you pay a tax? They are all to be raised on your own farms or your neighbour's farm, and there is no tax upon these articles. And your bread, is that taxed? Why, Mr. Cartright and Mr. Blake himself have repeatedly stated that of all shams and delusions that was the greatest which made the people of Canada believe that you could raise the price of flour or grain in Canada by putting a tax on it, here, where we raise a surplus. The wood you burn in your houses is untaxed, and the item of coal, for you who use it in the Maritime Provinces, is certainly not increased in price by the National Policy. Because every one knows who will take the trouble of looking into the operations of a mine that it requires very expensive machinery to raise the coal to the surface; he knows too that it requires as expensive machinery to raise 50 tons as it does to raise 500 tons a day, and that after one has gone to the expense of the machinery each additional ton raised makes the expenses of producing it on the surface less and consequently reduces its price—it can be sold cheaper. If you take the coal mines in Nova Scotia and compare the quantity of coal now produced with that under the no duty period you will find an average increase of about 400,000 tons per year, and the consequence is a reduction in price, the more raised the cheaper it can be sold.

Then as to your sugar. It is not so heavily taxed now as formerly, for speaking roundly it now only pays half the duty paid on it during the Mackenzie regime. Let me give you one more calculation. If you were taxed upon your tea, coffee, sugar and molasses to the extent that you were in 1878 you would have paid in 1885, under that arrangement, \$3,400,000 more taxes into the treasury than you did actually pay in 1885 because part of these articles are now free and on part the duties has been decreased. But why tax tea and coffee and admit coal free? We cannot raise tea and coffee here, you may tax them, it does not help any industry here; but coal we can raise, and by placing a protective duty on it we stimulate and develop an enormous industry in Canada. Under this impetus the product of coal has gone on increasing from year to year, and today in Nova Scotia, in the Northwest, in the Rocky Mountains, in British Columbia and distributed all along that region we have productive and inexhaustible coal mines which are being rapidly developed under the system we have introduced and kept up. Your tea and coffee on the other hand is let in free, the tax you formerly paid on these is shifted on to the coal, you pay less tax in 1885 than you would under the regime existing in 1878, while in addition the country has all the advantage of developing a great and paying industry. (Applause).

• Who pays the taxes, my workingman's friend asks—who, if the workingman does not? The answer is that it is those who buy luxuries who pay the greater bulk of them. If a man who is rich enough wishes to buy a particular kind of buggy, such as can be obtained in New York, Boston or Buffalo, and pays \$200 for it, he has in addition to that to deposit \$70 as duties in the treasury; he wants a luxury, he is able to pay for it, and the policy in force makes him pay duty. Take the case of a man who wants to buy a first-class organ. He is in New York. He purchases one there for \$500 and brings it into this country. Before he can do so, he must pay a duty of \$100 into the treasury. A man purchases a piano in New York, he chooses the best he can find; it costs him \$1,000, and thereupon he has, on bringing it here, to pay \$200 in the treasury. All these things go to make up the revenue of the Dominion. Take one who is fond of champagne, and I am very glad to know that there are not many who now indulge in that luxury, but, for those who do, for every bottle of champagne cracked the consumer has to pay a good stiff duty into the general funds of the country. If you wish Brussels carpet, and you want something soft to tread upon, and you buy it, you have to pay a duty on it, and a high duty it is as well; but, for the average farmer and workingman, who lives upon the simple necessities of life, and lives comfortably, and who wears like myself cloth upon which no duty is payable, then I say that the average farmer and the workingmen in the Dominion of Canada are more lightly taxed than the average farmer or workingman in any other country in this wide world. (Applause).