

- Tinware is dearer by 25 per cent.
- Common Crockery is dearer by 25 per cent.
- Common Glassware is dearer by 25 per cent.
- Bed Ticking is dearer by 12 per cent.
- Gray Flannel is dearer by 10 per cent.
- Brooms are dearer by 40 per cent.

The past four years are pictured as Canada's great growing time by the Liberal press and Liberal orators; as a period when the land flowed with milk and honey, when wages were high, work plentiful and the people prospered.

Let us examine the matter.

CREDIT TO WHOM CREDIT IS DUE.

The great development of the coal industry in Cape Breton and the boom in the Sault Ste. Marie district are pointed to as illustrations of prosperity.

The development of the Cape Breton coal mines commenced years ago, and the Whitney Syndicate, so-called, was in full operation under the beneficent encouragement of the National Policy, before the Liberal party was in power at Ottawa. The development of the iron and steel industry here was also due to the National Policy, and work now in progress at Sydney would be stopped at once if the Liberal Government carried out their pledges to eliminate every vestige of protection from the tariff. The bustle at Sault Ste. Marie is due to the fact that the late Government constructed a splendid new canal there, completed and in operation before they left office.

But let us look into the general state of the country during the past four years. It is true that the Trade and Commerce returns show that the Dominion imported for home consumption \$44,085,298 more value of goods in 1899, the last full year for which returns are published, than in 1896; that in 1899 the value of Canada produce exported was \$27,652,987 more than in 1896.

Where did this money go? Not into the pockets of the workingmen of Canada.

The increase in value of imports simply means, not that our people were able to purchase a greatly increased quantity of foreign goods, but that we had to pay a much larger price for what we did buy. That the cost of living or carrying on business was just about increased to that extent among those who used imported goods of any kind.

So far as the exports are concerned, the foreign price of some of the articles of export were enhanced, and this makes the showing a fair one, though the rate of increase is disappoint-

ingly small, being out of all proportion to the growth of the trade in the countries we deal with.

As far as the workingmen were concerned, it will be found that the export of manufactured goods was only \$2,341,323 more than in 1896, when the world was just recovering from a depression that was one of the longest and most wide-spread the world had ever suffered from. Why, during the last year of the late Government's term, when this depression was in full blast, and prices were so low, the exports of manufactures showed an increase of over a million and a half above the previous year. Had this rate been maintained the increase would have been double what it actually has been,

CONSIDER THESE QUESTIONS.

But can any statistics prove to the working people of Canada that the reign of the present Government has made them rich—that is, the workingmen, not the Government?

Is the cost of living less? Do you get higher wages? Do you need tables of figures to show you that you have to pay more for what you eat, drink and wear than you did when the late Government were in power?

Let each householder look into the facts for himself and ask his wife about the household expenses. The few who have been fortunate enough to get any increase of wages or any more work have found the increase more than eaten up by the enlarged cost of keeping body and soul together.

Let clerks and labourers, barbers, drivers, mechanics and artisans ask themselves and ask each other how much more they are earning than in 1896.

Are plumbers and steamfitters receiving very much greater employment at higher wages than they were four years ago? Or is it not a fact that many places have to put their men on short time owing to lack of orders?

Go into the rolling mills, and such iron and steel working industries, which were so especially encouraged by the late Government, is the hum of prosperity upon them? Or is it not a fact that some have had periods of idleness, that some are now talking about closing down, and when they re-open, if they do, will only run with a small staff, owing to lack of orders?

Ask the machine shop men if work and wages are not actually getting less. If they do not know instances where the decline in wages and increase in cost of living have not compelled people

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