reason to believe that there has been no material change in the opinion of the people of the country since; and the results of bye-elections which have taken place from 1882 to the present hour are, I think, strong proof of it. I can ony tell hon. gentlemen that if they desire to remain for a long time in the cold shades of opposition, they have only to take the same line of argument that they have been adopting in this House during the last five years, and they will be successful in keeping themselves there. If they endeavor to stultify the intelligence of the people, by showing that the country was deluded, that the people of the country were deluded, I say it is an insult to the intelligence of the people of the country. I can tell hon. gentlemen that the people understand what is to their advantage just as well as hon. gentlemen do, and they view it from an unbiased standpoint, because they have no object but their own welfare. These gentlemen have in view the coveted seats of office which they are craving for, and it is a strong inducement, it compels them to lay before the country those garbled statements that are from day to day produced in this House, and those disingenuous arguments which they endeavored to use for the purposes of convincing the country that they are not fairly dealt with. Now, I think I need say very little more in reference to this question. I may only for a moment refer to a statement made by an hon. member-I think for one of the Ontarios-who I understand is a lumberman. He states that the people of this country did not sell any more of their coarse grains, on account of the National Policy; that the farmers did not want the National Policy for that purpose. He did not say the farmers; He said, want it." "We (speaking as a lumberman) do not want it." We were aware of the fact in 1878, that the lumbermen did not want it, because they got their supplies of oats and pork and other articles from the western States, and they left the products of the farm at home to be sent to other markets, deducting from the products of those farmers the amount it cost to take them to foreign markets and sell them there. They say that we do not want to keep corn and corn meal out of the country, but I can only tell hon. gentlemen that the farmers want the National Policy as much to-day as they did in 1878, and they appreciate the good done to them by the Government as much to-day and as strongly as they did in 1878. It is said by the same hon. gentleman that this policy has done the farmers no good. Now, I can only say, in reply to that, that if there is any one class in the country more than another that it has benefited, it is the farmers. It has given them an increased market for their products. at least to the extent of the consumption of 71,000 people, employed in the factories and on the railways of the country; and it has reduced the cost of agricultural implements by the competition brought about by the additional number of people engaged in their manufacture. What is the story told to day by men selling machinery? They say that it has been reduced, during the last four or five years, in value, from 20 to 25 per cent.; and the hon. gentleman to night said that he knew manufacturers who had a million dollars in machinery that they would sell for 50 cents in the dollar. If this is so, the farmer must be able to buy cheaper. This policy has also reduced the cost of living to the farmer. Hon. gentlemen opposite have endeavored to prove that if the cost of living to the people has been reduced by the National Policy, it cannot have done the farmer any good; but it has reduced the cost to the farmer of those lines which he cannot supply himself. It has reduced the cost of the necessaries of life. It has made tea and coffee free of duty, so that they can be got at the lowest possible price. What are the prices of the necessaries of life to-day, compared with their prices in 1878? I am giving the figures that were collected by the hon. Postmaster-General last fall, because I have verified them by the prices [them by the policy of the present Government, and that it Mr. SPROULE.

given me by commercial men in my own part of the country, and I find them to be strictly correct:

	1878.	1884.
Sugar, retailed per pound "" white " Syrup for table use, per gallon " ordinary " Tea, per pound " Coffee, per pound	\$0 09 0 10 0 11 1 00 0 80 1 00 0 75 0 50 0 30	0 06 0 07 0 60 0 50 0 60 0 50 0 50 0 30
	880.	1884.
	000 250 700	\$ 8 00 10 00 12 50
Men's wool undershirts and drawers "Union " 0 50 to	1 00	0 75 30 to 50
Canadian tweeds for men's and boys's suits		50 to 0 75 0 45

This reduction in the price of blankets is due to the competition, and yet, though securing the home markets to these manufacturers, they have been enabled to reduce the price and still have as good a profit to-day as they had in 1878:

1880. 1884. Grey flannel, per yard... 35c., 374c., 45c. Check """".... 37c. to 40c. 25c., 30c., 35c. 25c.

In cotton goods there is an equal reduction. In fact, in every line representing the necessaries of life there has been a large reduction in the price, compared with the price in 1878. Now, if these figures do not show that the National Policy has benefited the farmer and the laboring man, then I do not know what is a benefit. I think we may safely assume that the farmers have been benefited by the enlarged market they have obtained, by the reduction of the price of agricultural implements, by the increased amount of money expended during the last five years, by the increased value of their products and the decreased value of the necessaries of life that they have been compelled to buy, and by the rapid settlement of the North-West country and the consequently increasing demand for the products of the agriculturists, especially of the Province of Ontario. I think I have shown clearly that it has reduced the cost of living, and consequently it must have benefited the laboring man as well as the farmer. I think, too, the mercantile class of the country are better off than they were in 1878, because if you take the last five years, and compare them with the previous five years, you will find that the number of people in mercantile business who failed in this country was only 5,040, compared with 9,185, during the five years previous. Why are fewer people failing to-day? Because they are in better circumstances and are better able to pay their way. The amount of money represented by the failures in the last five years was \$57,467,724, against \$133,128,724 in the five years previous. Now, I claim that this improved condition of affairs is plainly attributable to the improved condition of the people and their greater ability to pay their way to-day than was the case five years ago-to their increased purchasing power, and to the improved condition of the country in every particular. Now, although this question has been debated at great length in this House, I think the time has not been badly spent, for we have two parties laying their views before the country-one party, in my opinion, endeavoring strangely to mislead the country, and the other endeavoring to place facts and figures plainly before the people, to enable them intelligently to judge of their condition to day compared with what it was a few years ago. I say, while we have a class of people in this House who are endeavoring to mislead the country, and to prove that the people are worse off, that a great injustice has been done to