

serious evil. I observe that the hon. gentleman himself has, and I know his organs have, made it a matter of complaint that we have not praised him for the general rise in prices that has taken place. Although this is a curious cause of exultation so far as the consumer is concerned, I am willing, for my part, to give the hon. gentleman the credit which he undoubtedly deserves for the rise in prices that has taken place in sugar, iron, bread, fuel, tea, coffee, cloth, and cotton, and in almost all articles of prime necessity within the Dominion of Canada—and I might add that things are not only dearer but worse. The fact of the matter is that in Canada our market is so small that it is easy in many cases for existing manufacturing and industries to combine together—and I am afraid that is one of the points which put us at a great disadvantage with the people of the United States, for, however mistaken their policy may be still in the great majority of cases, their market is so large that competition enables them to secure more reasonable prices, and, as a rule, excellence of workmanship, and so to escape at least one of the difficulties which exist here. But there is another and a far more important question to be considered. We have seen how the hon. gentleman's policy affects the revenue. I desire now to see how it affects the general interests of the great mass of the people of Canada. The hon. gentleman has told us how pleased a few scores of manufacturers were with his visit. I do not doubt it in the least. I do not doubt that, apart from the pleasure of being visited by the hon. gentleman, which is a great one, these manufacturers were aware that a visit from a Minister of Finance was not a bad advertisement at the worst. And the hon. gentleman's organs have never been tired of repeating how zealously these favoured parties banquetted the hon. gentleman, and how pleasing it was to listen to the little duet between the sympathising Minister and the sympathising manufacturers— one party chanting the praises of a Minister of Finance who really felt for deserving manufacturers, and the other declaring how good and pleasant it was to find a body of patriotic individuals who were willing to support the present Ministry in return for the trifling privilege of putting their hands into the public till.

Now I would like to say a few words in explanation of the manner in which this policy affects a few hundreds of thousands of workmen and artisans throughout this country. Was it not this Ministry's special boast, was it not their special pledge that they, if they got into power, would provide plentiful wages and plentiful employment for each and every workman throughout the Dominion of Canada? Do we not know how the heart of the venerable leader of the House bled inwardly, as he himself has told us, all the time he was out of office, at the woes of the workmen? Do we not remember how the Minister of Railways was in the habit of holding me up to execration throughout the Maritime Provinces, because, as he said, his fellow-countrymen were in danger of being trampled under the iron heel of an Ontario Minister of Finance? while, as for the Minister of Finance himself, he had no words with which to express his deep sense of the importance of the question. The position of the artisan was, as he told the people of St. John, the true question of the day. I well recollect the righteous indignation with which the hon. gentleman rebuked me in that city, because, as he said, I had imposed a tax on tea which discriminated unjustly against the poor man in favour of the rich. It is true that I submitted proof that the total extent of this discrimination amounted to about one-half cent per head per annum. But it was the principle for which the hon. gentleman contended, and I could obtain no indulgence at his hands on account of the unfair mode in which that particular tax affected the workman. Now I would like to show how these hon. gentlemen have reduced their theories to practice. I do not propose to indulge in any vague rhetoric, I do not propose to indulge in any idle declamation, but simply to give the actual facts so far as they have been ascertained, or so far as they can be ascertained, showing the true incidence of taxation under this Tariff upon the ordinary artisan and workman in this country. What I mean is what these taxes compel these persons to pay over the counter as it were. I do not at all mean only what goes into the Treasury, for it is the very essence of the protective system that taxes so imposed should not go into the