

very expensive, metals should be used in place of commoner material, having special regard to the importance, in the matter of durability, of the cart itself not being unduly light with reference to the load it has to carry. The weights quoted for the cart are 656 English pounds as a maximum and 492 pounds as a minimum, but a designer can make a lighter cart provided it be of sufficient strength. It is evident that the carts are to be worked entirely by natives, as the mules are to be led by a man on foot, a driving seat being inadmissible. No kind of overhead covering is necessary. Laden carts will practically never be driven faster on level ground than at four miles an hour. As carts will often be loaded in railway trains by night, special importance attaches to ease and rapidity in dismantling and re-erecting the carts, and to facilities for the compact railway packing of constituent parts. This would indicate the use of removable poles or shafts. Great stress will be laid upon facilities for tightening up parts on the march, and for replacing tires, spokes, etc., with ease and rapidity and without skilled labor.

The importance of the subject is shown by the magnitude of the prizes and the fact that the competition is thrown open to the whole world.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

A NEW, struggling and badly handicapped Canadian industry is that recently started in London for the recovery of such gold and silver as may be contained in the floor sweeping of establishments where jewelry is made, of photograph galleries, etc. Those who are at all conversant with the matter know that these accumulations are very valuable, and that the manufacturers would sustain constant losses if the precious metals could not be recovered. A few months ago an item went the rounds of the jewelry and the other journals showing the large value of precious metal recovered from the floors and other portions of an old building that had for many years been used as a jewelry factory. The old lumber was carefully cut up and burned in a furnace prepared for the purpose, and the metal, which would otherwise have been lost, was recovered from the ashes. We know that in mints where coin is made, the sweepings of the floors are carefully preserved, and that even the overalls worn by the workmen are also, with the sweepings, carefully burned and the precious metals contained therein thus recovered. There are a number of concerns in the United States where the precious metals contained in sweepings is recovered. Agents for these concerns constantly visit jewelry shops and factories and similar places, and have these sweepings sent to their refineries, and a profitable and satisfactory business is thus conducted. These visits are usually extended to Canada; and although such a refinery has been put into successful operation in London, under the management of a skillful and experienced assayer and refiner, American purchasers are constant in their visits for Canadian sweepings. On the other hand, the London concern is constantly seeking sweepings for refinery purposes, and if it could be kept in constant operation employment would be given to quite a number of highly skilled workmen—the capital has already been invested in the plant. Gold and silver bullion is on the free list both in Canada and the United States, and on duty whatever is charged upon sweepings entering the lat-

ter country. This should be the fact in Canada also, but it is not; for under what we think a strained and far-fetched interpretation of the tariff, the Customs Department classifies sweepings as an unenumerated article of jewelry, and as such liable to the same duty as manufactures of gold and silver, or as jewelry of gold or silver. The precious metals contained in sweepings are nothing more nor less than the salvage obtained from the waste of factories and workshops, and are entirely valueless until recovered by smelting and refining, and to impose a duty upon such stuff is a travesty upon a system which should be purged of such an incongruity.

At the recent convention of the Liberal Party in Ottawa, a platform of principles was adopted, and that plank having reference to the tariff states that the customs tariff of the Dominion should be based, not as it is now upon the protective principles, but upon the requirements of the public service, or, a tariff for revenue only. This is the opposite of the principles of the Conservative Party, which adopted and adheres to the National Policy of tariff protection to Canadian manufacturing and farming industries. This system has not disappointed the masses of the people who inaugurated it and have contributed to support it, and they are not prepared at this time to declare against it, or in favor of a free trade policy. Thus the issue between the two political parties of the country is clearly defined. There are incongruities in the tariff that should be corrected; and there are changes that must be made. But these corrections and changes will be made by the friends of protection, and the enemies of the National Policy will not be called upon to destroy it.

THE Hamilton Spectator produces the following as its ideal of a franchise act:

Every male person, being twenty-one years old and a British subject, resident in a polling sub-division thirty days before the date of election, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, and, being registered, shall be entitled to vote at such election.

It should have gone further and stated that no man should have more than one vote under any circumstances.

WHILE the National Cordage Co (the Binder Twine Trust) is in the throes of bankruptcy and reorganization, Kentucky newspapers teem with advertisements of Kentucky hemp binder twine. Farmers are being encouraged to raise more hemp, and likewise to use the twine made therefrom in preference to imported jute. Kentucky hemp binder twine is being retailed at nine cents per pound, namely, about three cents per pound less than the jute twine.—Louisville, Kentucky, Manufacturer.

A MOST commendable departure on the part of an employer is that made by Alfred Dolge, of Alfred Dolge & Son, of Dolgeville, N.Y. Mr. Dolge has instituted among other co-operative features in his establishment a system of life insurance by which each employee receives a policy of \$1,000 after five years consecutive service, another \$1,000 after another five years of such service, and a third thousand after the third term of five years of such consecutive service—the firm, of course, paying the premiums in such policies.