

ditional labor and expense in book-keeping, and on this account is regarded as objectionable by several firms who are not opposed to the principle of monopoly.

The thread combination is one which cannot be broken down by the provision in the tariff bill against agreements as to the illegal restraint of trade. The provisions of the new tariff are, on the contrary, in favor of the monopolists. If Belgium is not accorded the privilege of preferential trade, then the one interest which offers at present any serious opposition to the British thread combination will be handicapped by a substantial discrimination against its goods. When the fight is conducted on narrow grounds, a difference in the customs duty, such as is proposed by the Liberal Government, would probably have the effect of driving independent foreign manufacturers altogether out of the field.

TOBACCO GROWING IN CANADA.

As was said in an article last month on this subject, the county of Essex, in Ontario, has for generations been growing tobacco; and now that a marked alteration in the tobacco duties has come about, the extension of domestic tobacco growing in the southwest of Ontario is beginning to be looked upon as quite natural. A letter from Windsor tells us that farmers in Essex who grow tobacco are enlarging their area in plants, believing that much of the imported leaf used in cheap Canadian cigars will in a year or two be replaced by home-grown leaf. Of course, the French Canadians of Quebec province have long raised their peculiar leaf.

A correspondent of the *Amherstburg Echo* writes in favor of adding tobacco growing to the list of agricultural industries of that much-favored southern county of Essex, which has already shown its capacity for producing with success, sorghum, maize, grapes, peaches and small fruits, in addition to the usual products of a Canadian farm. He favors making the weed a staple product of that and the adjacent counties, and argues thus: The plots set out need not be individually large; the culture of tobacco does not imply so much labor as many grain crops, and hence young people or old folk could look after the plants and do it cheaply. Besides, intelligent care will in his opinion return a crop of tobacco at more profit than is yielded by the generality of farm crops. In his mind "there is no question that only beneficial results must accrue from the addition of a few acres of tobacco to the crop rotation of Essex farms."

It is not necessary that we should follow this writer in his minute directions as to cultivation; some agricultural journals may do this. But we note his injunction as to care in the selection of seed, the White Burleigh being one of the favorite sorts grown in Essex. And we further note that he purposes following up his first letter with others addressed to the processes of cutting, curing, and preparation for market. When one remembers what Connecticut has done and what Wisconsin is doing in the way of raising tobacco, there would seem to be no reasons connected with climate or latitude that should prevent portions of Canada becoming important producers of the leaf.

ANTI-COMBINE LEGISLATION.

Whether the Opposition in Parliament made a happy selection of their ground of attack on the tariff, when they seized upon the anti-combine section, is a question on which we do not care to express an opinion. Both parties profess to be opposed to combinations in restraint of trade. Some members expressed the opinion that the criminal code

already supplies a sufficient mode of putting down combinations. But the criminal law has been permitted to lie practically dormant, while combines were rampant. The objection urged that the tariff bill merely contemplates a judicial finding of a fact, instead of a judicial decision, is not weighty. The fact here is the main thing in the case; once it is declared the law denounces the penalty, and gives the administration the latitude of discretion only, between making the article which is the subject of the monopoly, against which remedy is sought, duty free, or reducing the duty on it so as to ensure the breaking of the meshes of restraint by trade competition.

At first blush, the objection that innocent parties outside of combines may be punished with the guilty may cause a tremor, and it is not quite clear that the danger could be wholly obviated; but in actual practice, it would probably vanish in presence of the fact that outsiders would at least prevent the monopoly being complete. Even if it were necessary to indemnify an innocent sufferer from the incidental effect of a law passed in the general interest, it would be better to provide such indemnity than to permit the extortions of monopoly.

As originally drafted, the anti combine section of the tariff bill was defective in leaving the whole remedy to the discretion of the Government; but when this was remedied by calling in a judge to determine the fact whether a combination exists, all reasonable ground of complaint was cut away.

TRADE IN QUEBEC PROVINCE.

Our Montreal correspondent writes, under date Wednesday evening last, that while country failures for the week in the Province of Quebec were singularly few, there is at the same time much complaint by wholesalers of the backwardness of collections and remittances. "There is no hiding the fact," he says, "that disappointment is general among business men over the very slow improvement in trade. The backward spring and continued cold rains for several weeks past have had a discouraging effect in the country parts, where seeding operations have been much delayed, and it is likely that a good deal of replanting will have to be done. In sections where clay lands prevail the roads are described as abominable; in fact a French Canadian from Rouville county, when asked how the roads were, replied: 'Il n'y en a pas' (There are none), which pretty emphatically describes the situation as found in some districts, and there is still a rawness in the air which makes spring overcoats grateful. All this has its effect on business. Indeed, in many of the country churches of this Province there have been prayers for settled weather, which cannot come too soon in the general interest."

THE LATE J. H. R. MOLSON.

Another of the men who have helped to make the business community of Montreal the powerful factor in commerce and finance that it is to-day, is gone. And a capable, modest, estimable man he was—John Henry Robinson Molson; a man who united shrewdness with uprightness; kind of heart not less than clear of head; too high-minded for parsimony or chicane, and with a larger idea of life than that it is a field for trade alone. The deceased gentleman was born in Kingston 71 years ago, and had resided in Montreal since 1835, when his father, Mr. Thomas Molson, became a partner with Hon. John Molson in the firm of John Molson & Co. Part of John Henry's education was obtained at Upper Canada College, Toronto. On coming of age he inherited the brewery property under the will of his grandfather, and became a member, along with his father and the late William Molson, of the firm of Thomas and William Molson & Co., the style of which was changed in 1861 to John H. R. Molson & Bros. In 1879 Mr. Molson became vice-president of the Molsons Bank, whose president was then Mr. Thomas Molson; and on the death of the latter took the presidency, which he filled to the time of his death. Mr. Molson's benefactions to McGill College and to many of the charities of Montreal were known to most Canadians. Indeed he was one of a family whose members have for generations been distinguished as making a liberal use of wealth. The board of directors of the Molsons Bank met on May 28th, and passed a resolution recording on the minutes their sense of the loss sustained by the bank in Mr. Molson's decease, after having been for thirty-two years on the board, for twenty-one years as