

and the Brazilian minister, in regard to the subject, with the object of getting the Brazilian Government to remove the duty of 75 cents per barrel now imposed on imported flour. What the result of these efforts will be has not yet been determined.

But there seems to be another side to this question which, if rightly viewed, induces the belief that even if the proposed flouring mills are erected in Rio, it does not follow that the venture would prove a success. Freights from American to Brazilian ports are very low, the heavy shipments of American flour rendering possible good return cargoes of coffee, nuts, hides, rubber and other Brazilian products; and even in the face of the duty on flour, it is to be supposed that the American shippers could successfully contend with the new enterprise there. Wheat is not raised in merchantable quantities in Brazil, and such wheat as might be milled in Rio would be carried thither from Chili and the Argentine Republic, there being no duty imposed on that article in Brazil. An inducement of dividends of 25 to 30 per cent. is promised to investors to take stock in this English Rio Janeiro milling company, but there are many obstacles to the success of the venture. Some of these are:—the wheat would have to be imported; fuel is high and scarce in Rio, and coal would also have to be imported; as there is no skilled labor there, the mill employees would have to be carried there from England or elsewhere; there are no machinery manufacturing establishments there, and all machinery and heavy repairs would necessarily have to be carried there from abroad, and the by-products of the industry, such as bran and middlings, could not find a good market there. These and other obstacles which might be pointed out suggest that the venture might not be as profitable as its projectors hope for, and that the promise of 25 or 30 per cent. dividends would not be realized.

Possibly success may attend the enterprise, but it will probably be many years before the existing channels of trade in the direction indicated will become diverted or cease to exist.

#### STRIKERS AND THEIR METHODS.

THE public is indebted to Mr. Geo. T. Beales, a walking delegate for the Toronto District Assembly of the Knights of Labor, for an insight into the peculiar methods adopted by that order when a strike is in progress. At present a number of former employees of Heintzman & Co., piano manufacturers, of this city, are on strike, and the *Toronto News*, which poses as a mouthpiece of the workingmen, recently published an interview with Mr. Walking Delegate Beales, part of which reads as follows:—

“Is it true that the company are importing hands?”  
 “Yes, they have succeeded in bringing a number of workmen here, but it is one thing to get them here and another thing to keep them.”

“Do you mean that they have gone away again?”  
 “Well, the majority of them have wandered on. Some men could not be coaxed away, but there are only a few of that stamp.”

“Am I to understand that the strikers offered these men inducements to leave town?”

“You are asking too many questions. Some of these men came here without knowing there was a strike on, and explanations had to be made to them. And in more than one case they had spent their last dollar to get here, and a slight advance to pay their railroad fare was necessary. I have here

the receipts I took from them for these amounts,” and he produced a well-filled receipt book in proof of his statement.

“You need to have considerable money to carry on a struggle of this kind?”

“Well, I always keep a little on hand to be ready for emergencies.” The roll of bills with which he backed up this assertion looked as if quite a number of emergencies would have to occur before it would disappear. “That will provide for contingencies in the way of railroad fares, etc., for some time to come, and when it is exhausted I have the means of replenishing it in this bank book. There is no danger of our running out of funds just yet.”

We have a dim suspicion that the powers that be amongst the Knights of Labor will consider the remarks of Mr. Beales as refreshingly indiscreet, and will question the policy of his indulging in such “boodle” braggadocio. All the same it is well that some light has been thrown on the internal economy of the strikers' association, and in this connection manufacturers might read and re-read with profit a paper which appeared in our last issue entitled “organization.”

#### CANADIAN TRADE WITH CHINA AND JAPAN.

THE British Columbia Legislature has sent a memorial to the Canadian Government requesting the appointment of an experienced and reliable person to act as public service commissioner, with a suitable assistant, to proceed to China and Japan, to observe the courses and requirements of trade there and collect statistics thereof, and ascertain what manufactures and commercial and agricultural products of Canada are suitable to them, and to report as fully as possible to the proper department at Ottawa, the reports to be printed by the Government and distributed for general information.

The initiative in this matter was taken by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association some time ago, which action was fully discussed in these pages at the time. The importance of it to Canada and Canadian manufacturing and mercantile interests cannot be overestimated. One of the strongest evidences of the thrift of a nation is seen in the volume and character of its commerce with other nations; and Canada can never attain to the full glory to which she is entitled until the products of her workshops are found in all the marts of the world, vying for commercial favor with those of other and older nations.

It will be remembered that the efforts of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association secured the sending of Commercial Agents to Australasia and the West Indies, and it is to be hoped that there will be no unnecessary delay in dispatching commissioners to the Asian countries indicated for similar purposes. It is probable that this will be done when the Canadian Pacific Railway steamers commence plying between Vancouver and Asiatic and Australian ports.

#### ENGLISH DEMANDS FOR PROTECTION.

RECENTLY a meeting was held in Leicester, England, to consider the existing depression in agriculture and trades, and the best methods of bringing about a remedy. The attendance was large and influential, the Duke of Rutland, Mr. Ellis, M.P., Mr. Moreton-Frewen, and other gentlemen explaining their views on the question of protection and free trade; and it is evident from the reports of the meeting which have reached us