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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

Market—The Increase of Small Industries	Page 161
Re-opening the Fishery Award—Reasons Against Laws—The Proposed Iron and Steel Association, etc., etc.	162 & 163
The Commercial and Industrial Press	164
Prices Current and Weekly Review	165
Letters—Mining	166
Letters—Practical	167
Letters—Trade	168
Letters—Insurance	169
Money Market—Trade Directory	170
Trade Directory	171
Advertisements	172

INCREASE OF SMALL INDUSTRIES.

which the National Policy is doing to is not mentioned by the building and of large factories. Of course the large new most strikes the eye of the observer, and it is which makes most show in the newspapers which concerns attracts more attention, and in of, and we read more about it in the than a hundred small enterprises having in aggregate double its importance. One large employing a hundred men will draw more of observation than twenty small shops employ men each, though the aggregate of the latter getting their due meed of publicity in the press, greater number of smaller ones, which have been created by the N. P., or have under it into renewed life, should not be forgotten. It is nature of things impossible that the increase of small shops is so rapid and expansion of hundreds of small manufacturing concerns can be made a matter of distinct and separate in the press, in the same way as is done with the concern. Nor is it the great number of small shops doing a large aggregate business that renders it a difficult task to give figures which would show a comparison between the at time and a year ago. The expansion of in old shops is, very fit, exceeds that due what has happened, and what is now going not so much the building of new workshops that there is a great deal to be observed, the increase in work turned out and number employed in old shops. Hundreds upon of the latter, after several years of suspension during the depression, are now what literally as well as figuratively. A certain in gain in the real dimensions of the in the fact that many new lines of manu- are being carried on in old shops, and by who have been in business years before, but on a small scale. Many a new manufacture there is apt to escape general observation, simply the fact of its being carried on in old premises. It has happened, unfortunately, that throughout country the number of shops only half occupied, or occupied at all, has been so considerable that them all to small amount of expansion will be noted. In this way the casual observer is apt to the real importance of the change, the aggregate improvement being diffused throughout the in small concerns and numerous minor lines manufacture. But the magnitude of the change going on is such as must cause it to be very seen and very strongly felt ere long. In all have in view these industries only in which is direct competition between manufacture at

and important than has been. The building of new lines of manufacture, and the expansion of old lines, are not mentioned by the building and of large factories. Of course the large new most strikes the eye of the observer, and it is which makes most show in the newspapers which concerns attracts more attention, and in of, and we read more about it in the than a hundred small enterprises having in aggregate double its importance. One large employing a hundred men will draw more of observation than twenty small shops employ men each, though the aggregate of the latter getting their due meed of publicity in the press, greater number of smaller ones, which have been created by the N. P., or have under it into renewed life, should not be forgotten. It is nature of things impossible that the increase of small shops is so rapid and expansion of hundreds of small manufacturing concerns can be made a matter of distinct and separate in the press, in the same way as is done with the concern. Nor is it the great number of small shops doing a large aggregate business that renders it a difficult task to give figures which would show a comparison between the at time and a year ago. The expansion of in old shops is, very fit, exceeds that due what has happened, and what is now going not so much the building of new workshops that there is a great deal to be observed, the increase in work turned out and number employed in old shops. Hundreds upon of the latter, after several years of suspension during the depression, are now what literally as well as figuratively. A certain in gain in the real dimensions of the in the fact that many new lines of manu- are being carried on in old shops, and by who have been in business years before, but on a small scale. Many a new manufacture there is apt to escape general observation, simply the fact of its being carried on in old premises. It has happened, unfortunately, that throughout country the number of shops only half occupied, or occupied at all, has been so considerable that them all to small amount of expansion will be noted. In this way the casual observer is apt to the real importance of the change, the aggregate improvement being diffused throughout the in small concerns and numerous minor lines manufacture. But the magnitude of the change going on is such as must cause it to be very seen and very strongly felt ere long. In all have in view these industries only in which is direct competition between manufacture at

RE-OPENING THE FISHERY AWARD

We learn from a Washington correspondent that Col. Low, of Gloucester, Mr. Arthur Foster, of Boston, and Prof. Emory, of Washington, are to form a Commission of Inquiry into the Hiss charges. This is probably the meaning of what has appeared lately in the telegraphic despatches of the intentions of the new President's Secretary of State. The advent to power of Senator Blaine seems to add a new departure for anti-Canadian sentiment, and extreme journals are already anticipating that Canada will be made "Albion's" fishery award. The late Congress left to the incoming President the task of investigating Hiss's mad accusations. Possibly this Commission is the mode adopted. A printed document is sent by our correspondent containing a report of the Committee of Foreign Affairs to which the Hiss indictment was referred. The preamble recites "charges of perjury and fraud in regard to the testimony introduced by the British Consul and officials before the Halifax Commission." The report proceeds as follows: "These charges have been widely circulated and are principally, if not wholly, based upon information furnished by Mr. Hiss. Your Hiss, a Canadian statistician, under whose supervision an important portion of the statistical testimony used in support of the British case was prepared. This gentleman now charges that very much of this testimony was transposed and changed as materially to affect results, that this was done deliberately, and with intent to deceive the Commissioners, and that it produced the desired effect in the award of the Commission. The committee have no present means of proving or disproving the statements of Mr. Hiss, nor would it be possible to do so during the term of the present Congress. At the same time the charges are of so serious a character and affect so greatly the relations of the two nations that in convention, and the award made by the Commission, not only in its present operation, but prospectively as a basis for future negotiations regarding the fisheries, that the committee deem it important that the testimony bearing upon the same should be secured and preserved for the information of this Government." The above report assumes facts which are every whit as false as Hiss's assertions. It styles the professor "a Canadian statistician," which he is not. It says he was employed as such in preparing statistical testimony used on the British side, which he was not. It asserts that evidence prepared by him was afterwards altered to deceive the Commission, and so affected the award—all of which is not even alleged by Hiss himself. We readily concede that any committee which degrades so much important evidence as this really needs an indictment. But the American public can hardly be led to depend upon the impartiality of information prepared in such a spirit. The House of Representatives appears to have accepted the following joint resolution: "Whereas allegations have been made, apparently related to credit, relative to the authenticity of the testimony introduced before the Halifax Fisheries Commission by members of the British case, and the integrity and good faith of said members; and whereas it is important that the truth of said allegations be known regarding the relations of the parties to said Commission, the validity of its award, and the reliability of the same as a basis for future negotiations, therefore, "Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the President of the United States be requested to investigate at once all matters relating to said allegations, and to secure the testimony bearing upon the same, and to report said testimony to next Congress, and that he be authorized to incur any expense for said purpose." If our friends across the border really have thought it worth their while to employ commissioners to investigate these charges, it is unlikely that objection will be made from any quarter. The Canadian Fisheries Commissioners' exhaustive report has thoroughly exposed them to the extent that all rights needed to be done. It is quite possible that some

of our new labor laws will be made, possibly identifying "industrialism" they may become a day and a way of getting out of the morass of industrialism. It is a responsibility which is provided in the most stated of the cooperation.

REBELLION AGAINST LAWS.

The most powerful statement of the day are now engaged in making a "new departure" of vast importance, which challenges the hostile criticism of Free Traders the world over. In the *German Empire* speech, about a month ago, there was what the cable called an appeal to the working classes, apparently directed to millions of the relations in June. He was, naturally for social taxes must be sought not only in repression, but in an equally positive attempt to promote the welfare of the laboring classes. He hopes that the Workmen's Accident Insurance Bill will be welcomed as a complement to the legislation against the social democracy, on which it may be reinstated that if such legislation appeared advisable a few weeks back, the terrible taking off of his Imperial brother of Russia must make it appear a matter of most urgent necessity now. To the powers that rule Europe the St. Petersburg tragedy sends a warning of dread import, which at their peril they must heed. If before they see danger approaching, they must be instant in means to avert it now, when it is even at their doors. High time is it, indeed, to do something "to better the lot of the working classes, which is desired to be the object of certain legislative measures now proposed for the German Empire. To carry out the "ally-on-the-wheel" idea, and leave the working classes to better their lot unaided and in their own way, appears to be a hazardous procedure on the Continent of Europe just now. *Bismarck*, at all events, seems to have become convinced that something must be done, and current rumor credits him with having in hand no mere tinkering measure, but a scheme of vast proportions, and conceived on a grand scale. The *Toronto Globe*, which on Free Principles is and must be opposed to any National Policy of the kind indicated, says that if the most recent fore-shadowings are authentic, and the innovations now proposed are to be regarded as but the earnest of measures so extensive and thorough-going that a great social revolution must be in store for Germany, and, perhaps, for all Europe. The first step is the abolition of some £20,000,000 sterling of direct taxation, of a kind that bears most heavily upon the poor; making up the amount of heavier imposts on brewing stamps, and in some other ways. This, the *Globe* thinks, might not be so far wrong, but not even a qualified approval can our contemporary give to the Accident Insurance Bill, which embodies the principle, a startling one to Free Traders, of compulsory insurance. The workman is not to say whether he will or will not be prudent enough to insure himself against privation through inability to work caused by accidents, but the Government steps in, says that he must and shall be so insured, and does it for him, without asking his consent. It is proposed to provide for the contingencies, not of accident only, but also of death and helpless old age, from which workmen's families so frequently suffer. The better class of workmen are to pay a part of the necessary premium for themselves but those whose weekly wage falls below a certain measure to have the premium paid for them, partly by their employers and partly by the municipality to which they belong. All Free Traders are bound to agree with the *Globe* that such a measure is unsound in principle and can be but fatal in practice, and that as an interference between employers and employees it violates one of the fundamental maxims of political economy. That it ruthlessly kicks aside one of the fundamental maxims of political economy, so called, is true enough, but has our contemporary ever duly weighed the very important question which the fact suggests? Why is it that, not alone in Germany, but in other countries as well, certain dire necessities of the present time are driving statesmen to this result—that they have to extend obedience to the alleged "laws" of the "industrial science" as bringing chiefly misery to the people and danger to the State? In England, orthodox public opinion holds these much vaunted "laws" to be almost of Heavens-born infallibility; but in conspicuous rebellion against them we find three great nations—France, Germany, and the United States of America. Because these three are great and highly civilized and progressive nations, they deserve special mention; but the truth is that, outside of Great Britain and her colonies, nearly the whole civil world is in rebellion against these very "laws." A

system of national economy, sustained in the leading language of civilization by scores of the ablest advocates that the world has known to during the last fifty years, stands so derided by events that statesmen have to throw it out of their way like rotten wood on an economic crisis comes, and when a nation is to be saved. A system of ruling it may pay moment in fair weather, but in the storm of popular want and pressure it is found worse than gold. Some countries of positive duty, in fact. This year France decided to go beyond all known precedent in the attempt to create a national currency to be issued by government subsidy, while Germany proposes that the State shall take the whole class of workmen in charge, and do for them that which it appears they cannot or will not do for themselves. There are indeed startling violations of the fundamental "laws" of what is called "political economy," but whence, we ask, the necessity which compels statesmen to such violations? Are the so-called "laws" really as certainly true and infallible as their advocates assert? Or do these "laws" hold good in England only, while wholly false and inapplicable in other civilized countries? These are questions which the doctrines of the Free Trade school will have to answer. They are no mere debating-school questions, raised for argument's sake only, but questions of grave, practical necessity. Upon a right and practical answer to each of them the fate of more than one great nation hangs, and the matter is of more than parliamentary urgency. The signs of the times certainly do not favor the boasted "system" of Free Trade and a minimum of governmental interference with a country's industry and business—with the getting and spending of the people. The stars in their courses seem to be fighting against this system, and it appears to be doomed, notwithstanding all the ability exercised in its defence. Its advocates had better propose to put with their very best efforts in the next few years.

THE PROPOSED IRON AND STEEL ASSOCIATION

The proposal has been made that too scattered iron production in Canada should form themselves into an association, the object of which would be the promotion, by all lawful means, of such legislation as will create a basis of security for the investment of capital in the business. We need scarcely enlarge upon the power of the associate and concerted action of many to bring about results for which individual unconnected effort might labour everlastingly in vain. The English Anti-Corn Law League lives in history as the first great example of combination for a specific economic purpose, conducted in such a way as to harmonize with the genius of a free people and free institutions. Since that first great success there have been many smaller ones, all showing what can be effected by men who are in earnest, and combined for a purpose. That the Dominion would benefit by millions annually were the vast treasures of ore in course of being transmuted into reliable iron at home, is what nobody denies; but just as clearly does it appear that without legislation for the express purpose, no beginning worth speaking of will ever be made. All hope of any large extended development of iron production in Canada without tariff changes such as will give confidence to capital is to be dismissed as utterly vain and futile, and it is but what is which could encourage it. Under exceptional circumstances an individual like Mr. McLeod, or a few others, or a company like that of Donohoe's, may make a limited business in special lines, and the enterprising men engaged in these ventures deserve high credit for the value of their example before the country, but it is plain that without more N. P. legislation they will have few imitators. The Government which gave Canada a National Policy is doubtless able to bring iron production as well as other industries within the sphere of its shielding influence, but for further steps a strong and unmistakable backing of public opinion is imperatively required. It is for those who are specially interested in the development of iron making in Canada to appear and show cause before the public in the matter. If they want the Government to do something, and public opinion to sustain the Government in doing it, they should be able to give the reason why. In order to do this, association is necessary, the work is beyond the power of any individual. Association for all sorts of purposes is an old story with us now, and it should not require much urging to show the application of the principle to the present case. The latest and nearest example for us is that of the American Iron and Steel Association, some particulars regarding which we will at an early day lay before our readers.