

reduce stocks. Bring out all goods that are selling slowly, or have been a little too long in stock. Mark them down low and put them out to view and try and run them off. It is always better to sell undesirable stock, even at a loss, than have the store filled up with dead stock. Dead stock represents money invested just the same. Try and get your money out of it, or as much of it as you can. Better sell it at a loss even, than keep it in definitely. Mark these goods down so low as to make them attractive, remembering that by the judicious handling of old goods, they can be made an attraction to most stores rather than an injury to them; and really a more profitable attraction, even when sold at very low prices, than over purchases of new goods, especially at a time when a cautious policy in buying should be followed.

LABOR IMMIGRATION.

The question of immigration was under discussion in Parliament at Ottawa on Wednesday. One Ontario member thought it was not advisable to encourage the farther immigration of farm laborers, as in Ontario, he said, there was already a surplus. In reply to this two western members—Messrs. Boyd and MacDonald—said that they (the farm laborers) could be sent to Manitoba, as there was need of them here. The Commercial questions the correctness of this advice, notwithstanding that it was given by western members. At the present time there is a surplus of farm and general labor in Manitoba. The wages offered for farm help is very low, ten dollars per month being the rule, and up to fifteen dollars per month for first class men. At these wages plenty of men can be secured in Winnipeg in a very brief time. Of course there will be an increased demand for help a little later on, when harvest begins, but this will last only for a very brief season. Owing to the light growth of straw this year, harvest work will be lighter than usual, and we doubt if any considerable number of men in addition to those now in the country, will be required even during the busy harvest season. Any additional help, if required for the harvest, will be supplied in the annual harvest excursions from the eastern provinces.

It is therefore wrong to advise the sending of farm or other labor immigration to the West. It is unjust to the labor already in the country, and unjust to those who are encouraged to come. It is even cruel to encourage foreign laborers to come here, even if they can get work for a couple of months or so in the harvest season, for this will not go far in carrying them through the long winter. With those who come up from the eastern provinces it is different. They only come for the harvest season, intending to return to their homes in the east in the fall; but to encourage any large influx of British or foreign labor here is decidedly cruel. The population of the country here is yet small, and there is not the field to absorb any considerable number of farm or other laboring men. Even a limited number coming in will soon create a surplus.

It would be better for our representatives at Ottawa if they would tell the plain truth in

this matter, for they cannot be misinformed as to the actual facts. If they are not properly informed on this question of immigration, they are not suitable representatives for this country, for any man of ordinary intelligence who has lived here for a few years, should be able to comprehend the facts, and understand the needs of the country.

This matter of advising promiscuous immigration is indulged in too freely by many who should know better. What we want in this country is not farm laborers or laborers of any kind. There is a surplus, we say now, of this class. What we want is agricultural settlers, who come prepared to locate on land, and make a living for themselves from the soil. To this class of settlers this country offers splendid inducements. The supply of labor, except for a brief time during the harvest season in some years, is quite equal to the ordinary demand, and recently has been in excess of the demand. There are men now tramping through the country from farm to farm, endeavoring to obtain work, and many more about the towns and cities who would be willing to work on farms at very moderate wages. We submit these facts with all due deference to our representatives at Ottawa, with the remark that the truth will redound more to the benefit of the country than misrepresentation.

UNITED STATES SUGAR TARIFF.

The sugar schedule has been one of the stumbling blocks of the proposed new United States tariff. The sugar duties have been changed several times, and the final revision of the bill by the Senate has led to further changes. As now amended the bill fixes a duty of 40 per cent. ad valorem on all sugars, with additions of one-eighth of a cent a pound on sugars above No. 16 Dutch standard, and of one-tenth cent a pound on sugar imported from countries that pay an export duty. These duties are to go into effect on the passage of the bill. The most important amendment made by the Senate in this latest revision of the sugar schedule, is in regard to the bounty paid upon sugar. The Wilson bill as passed by the House, provided for a gradual reduction of the bounty at the rate of one-quarter of a cent per year. Under this plan it would take eight years to wipe out the bounty now paid producers of sugar in the United States. The Senate, however, has adopted an amendment to wipe out the entire bounty at one stroke, and if the bill is finally passed in its present shape as regards sugar, the sugar bounties will cease at once. The system of paying bounties to producers, which is simply one form of bonusing, is a very objectionable procedure from many points of view. Economically and commercially, there is scarcely any ground upon which to base any argument in favor of the system and in voting in favor of the repeal of the sugar bounties the action of the United States Senate will be generally commended.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Anti-option bill, which has been passed by the United States House, has yet to pass the Senate before it can become law. It is

expected the bill will meet with considerable opposition in the Senate. The bill places a tax upon trading-in futures.

THE colonial conference, which is in session at Ottawa this week, is not attracting very wide public attention, owing to the proceedings being in private. Only very brief reports of the sessions are given to the press, and the general public have but a vague idea of the nature and purpose of the convention.

Following the action of certain Winnipeg retail dry goods dealers, the grocers and others are moving to set aside one afternoon in each week, during the heated term, as a half holiday. This action is very commendable. The dry goods men have selected Friday afternoon, and the grocers and butchers have chosen Thursday afternoon. As it will be more satisfactory to the public, as well as more enjoyable to the business men and their clerks to have all the branches of trade select the same day for a holiday, the dry goods men have decided to change to Thursday.

A NEW route from Lake Superior to Montreal is now being talked about. Ottawa people are the principal movers in the matter, and a committee of the Ottawa board of trade is pushing the scheme. The proposed route is via French river, Lake Nipissing and the Ottawa river to Montreal. French river flows into the northern end of Georgian bay, on Lake Huron. It is claimed that this route is feasible for moderate sized craft, and it would be 350 miles shorter than around by Lake Erie and other connecting links, to Montreal. The Ottawa people want the Dominion government to make a survey of the route, with the object of determining the cost of making it navigable.

THE Wilson tariff bill finally passed the United States senate in committee of the whole on Tuesday. There were a lot of amendments offered in the final discussion, but few of them were adopted. The wool schedule still provoked the keenest opposition, but the free wool clause remains. The final vote on the bill as a whole was 37 yeas, 34 nays. The bill has been altered very materially since it was first passed by the house, and it remains to be seen how the latter body will regard these changes. The bill must of course be concurred in by both bodies before it can become law. If the house reverts any of the changes made by the senate, it may be a long time yet before the measure gets through. Before the bill was finally adopted by the senate, Mr. Morgan offered an amendment to come in as five additional sections at the end of the bill, aimed at "trusts, combines and conspiracies in restraint of trade and commerce, or to increase the market price of imported articles." He made an explanation and defence of the amendment which would have the effect, he said, of repressing "those trusts in all their multiplied hideousness." After some discussion the amendment was agreed to without division.

C. F. Mott & Co., Halifax, soap manufacturers, have assigned. The assets and liabilities are not yet known, but will be large.