

interested. The defendants had bought up and combined a number of vessels and cheapened freights to the alleged injury of the plaintiff. The Lord Chancellor, who pronounced the final decision, could not see any malicious intention to injure rivals; had intimidation, violence, or molestation been exercised, or people induced to break their contracts, these acts would have been unlawful. There had simply been a combination to obtain business, and freights had been reduced. The Chancellor was clearly of opinion that a combination to reduce prices so as to attract business to an extent that made it unprofitable for rivals to pursue the trade, was not unlawful. The only bearing that this has upon American and Canadian combinations is, that it is permissible under English law to "freeze out" weak rivals by lowering prices, provided no intimidation, violence or molestation is resorted to in the process, and no inducement to break contracts is held out.

With the New Year the consolidated and amended Public Health Act for London, England, went into force. In it is found, in an unusual degree, the compulsory element. As British sanitary legislation becomes the model, which, in this country, we are apt to follow, it may be well to glance at some of the provisions of the amended Act. No house is to be permitted to be built unless provided with proper sanitary appliances, under a penalty not to exceed £20, and the same rule is to be applied to existing buildings. This provision, if adopted in our cities, would settle some questions that have remained open too long. An occupied house without a sufficient supply of water is deemed unfit for human habitation; and no house is to be built or occupied until the Sanitary Authority has certified that it is provided with water, which must be proper in quality and sufficient in quantity. When a water company cuts off a supply from a house, the Sanitary Authority is, within twenty-four hours, to be notified of the fact. The number of persons who may occupy a lodging house is limited, and the Sanitary Authority is to enforce the limitation. From the provision to enforce the consumption of smoke dwelling houses are free. Provision is made for the paving of yards and open spaces in connection with dwelling houses. Great care is taken that the provisions of the law shall not fail of execution, the authority for that purpose being named in every section.

#### THE WEST INDIES AND U. S. RECIPROcity TREATIES.

These treaties give the Americans advantages in many articles which Canada is equally capable of supplying to the West Indies. The treaty which applies to British Guiana, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbadoes, the Leeward Islands and the Windward Islands, Granada excepted, reduces existing duties to the extent of fifty per cent. on articles most of which Canada produces equally with the United States: bacon, hams, boots and shoes, biscuits, cheese, lard, oleomargarine, shooks, stoves, and mules. In the fabrication of oleomargarine

we cannot pretend to compete with the Republic; in the rest of the series we can, provided the competition is on equal terms. There are other articles on which a reduction of twenty-five per cent. is effected, in some of which, corn or maize and corn meal, pitch pine, and petroleum, the United States is in a better position than Canada to supply. Others in this category come into direct competition with Canada: beef, pork, wheat and flour. For Trinidad a different provision is made in the article of wheat flour, by which the duty is not to exceed seventy-five cents a barrel.

The treaty with Jamaica runs on the same lines, but the fifty per cent. reduction does not embrace so many articles: boots and shoes, hides, oleomargarine, and shooks and stoves being omitted. The lumber of pitch pine, a production of the Southern States of the American Republic, is to pay a reduced duty of nine shillings per 1,000 feet. There is also a twenty-five per cent. reduction in the schedule, but it does not embrace as many articles as the other treaty, wheaten flour, oats, and the lumber of pitch pine being left out.

The free list in the first treaty is extensive, embracing asses, sheep, goats, hogs, eggs, canned beef and pork, fruits and vegetables, fresh or dried; but here, before the fruit can there is a halt, and fruit and can and bottle are excluded from the list. Hay and straw for forage, tan bark, whole or ground bones and horns, bran, middlings and shorts are included. So much for the produce of farm and forest. Canada does not breed asses, either for home use or exportation; and canned beef and pork the Americans have so far proved their right exclusively to supply, by producing at prices which compete successfully in the markets of the world. Canada has not yet begun the business of beef or pork canning on a large scale, though the time cannot be far distant when she will be able to do so. The canning of beef from cattle raised in our North-West will come first. The time when beef canning on a large scale will be possible might have been anticipated, if it had been deemed safe to manufacture American beef, as was proposed in Parliament, but negatived, last session. We grow pork that brings a better price than American, but not enough of it to justify the expectation that the canning of pork on a large scale is likely soon to be one of our industries. In this particular the United States enjoys an advantage over Canada in the large production of corn for the fattening of pigs, which is a leading article of her agricultural industry.

The first treaty also contains in its free list products of the sea; fish, fresh or on ice, and oysters and salmon in cans. It was thoughtful of the American negotiators not to neglect to mention oyster cans and salmon cans, as the omission to specify lobster cans in a treaty with Canada furnished an occasion to our Republican neighbors to show their astuteness and nice sense of public faith by a brilliant afterthought which enabled them to put a duty on these packages. It was a queer stroke of policy by which a great nation demonstrated to the world the astuteness of American negotiators and American col-

lectors of customs. It is wise of Mr. Harrison's Government not to be caught in the trap set for Canada by one of his predecessors; the free oyster can and the free salmon can are the sons of taxed lobster can of other days.

The list of manufactures in the first free list is extensive. Some idea may be formed of how this list will affect the interest of the West Indies. In bridges of wood, no other country except Canada could compete with the United States, but other countries, Belgium and England, could furnish iron bridges cheaper than the United States. The latter is one of the items for which the West India Islands, which this treaty affects, will have to pay an excessive price. Brooms, brushes, and whisks of broom straw can be produced by the United States at as low figures as by any other country. This will probably prove true of tallow candles, carts and wagons, for ordinary and agricultural use. Of clocks, mantel and wall, some the Republic can produce at competing prices but not others, and if the islands will have the others, they must pay extra for them. Articles of domestic use, made of copper, bronze, zinc and lead, could, we should think, be produced at less cost by other countries. In cotton seed and its products, the Republic can probably beat the world; but what is meant by the stipulation freeing the productions of cotton seed? It means that cotton oil is henceforth to take the place of olive, and it will go hard if it does not get the latter name before it reaches the consumer. In crucibles and melting pots an extensive trade cannot be anticipated. American gas fixtures and pipes, which are made free, are, we suspect, quality for quality, dearer than other countries could supply, but not perhaps seriously so. In wooden houses, America can compete with any other country. In many agricultural implements, but not in all, though all to be admitted free, this is true; in India rubber and gutta percha goods, the Americans will desire to get something above the world's price. These islands contract to take free from the United States a large number of other articles, including printing and wrapping paper, medical extracts and preparations (those of quinine, opium gange or bhang excepted), printers' ink and presses, photographic appliances, pitch, tar, salt, sewing machines, boilers, pipes, sulphur, telegraphic wire and apparatus, wall papers, trees, plants, vines, seeds and certain kinds of varnish, watches not in gold and silver cases, and watch movements without cases, water-pipes, wire fence, baking powders, zinc, tin, and sheet lead, asbestos and tar roofing paper.

There remains to be mentioned one innocent looking item, in which, if we mistake not, danger lurks. In the free list are gold and silver coin of the United States and bullion. If these West Indies contract to take American silver coin at par, they agree to part with their product at a little over seventy-four cents in the dollar of the nominal price. The more business they do on this basis, the worse off they will be. The Americans could afford to buy the whole produce of the West Indies, if they were