

Fighting for the Control.

Are large manufacturing establishments to be practically controlled by the owners, or by the workmen whom they employ? The employer contracts to pay the workman so much for so much work performed, whether by the day or by the piece. The work having been done and paid for, does that complete the contract? Or are there some other things, not exactly nominated in the bond, but which still have to be implemented under pain of the contract being cancelled? Such is really the case most conspicuously of all in the iron-moulding and boot and shoe trades.

In the large foundries the men make terms, not only as regards their own employment and their own wages, but also as regards the employment of others. No man who is not a member of the union may put his hand to a pattern, and the number of apprentices that may be taken is very strictly limited. The owners are supposed to be masters, but practically the men are in control. This has long been the case in the United States, and it is only recently that foundry owners have dared to pick up courage to kick against it. The same evil has been felt in Canada too, but so far foundry owners here have thought it best to submit and say nothing.

In the States, however, there are signs of rebellion against a too-long enduring tyranny. Concerning this we find something to the purpose in the Report on Business Statistics presented by a committee to the American National Association of Stove Manufacturers, recently held at Cleveland, and published in the *Iron Trade Review*. We quote:

"The committee crave pardon for trespassing so much upon the time of the convention, but there is another subject to which they desire to advert, viz.: the question of labor. While the present cost is out of proportion to the prices of our goods and should be reduced, and is also out of proportion to the ruling prices for food and clothing, this is the least important in view of the despotism under which some of us labor and suffer. All honor to those courageous men who have maintained or recovered control of their own shops. They have set a brilliant example to those of us whose necks are still under the galling yoke of Trades Unionism. It is a servitude both disgraceful and unprofitable. How can we as men with some pride and self-esteem, walk through our shops and look our men in the face, both well-knowing that they are our masters; that they decide who shall work and who shall be discharged, the prices that we shall pay them irrespective of the condition of trade and our necessities? Cannot something be done, the committee ask, that will rid us of this fearful incubus? What a spectacle in this country of boasted freedom, for a company of men to band together, defying laws both human and divine in preventing by force non-union men from freely working at their pleasure, and also dictating as to the number of boys which may learn a trade, and what number shall be condemned to a life of idleness which will most certainly end in crime. We have become so much accustomed to these enormities, that we fail to duly appreciate their infamy, and in this view it may be useful to hear

what certain wise men have said in regard to liberty and private rights."

After quoting from Adam Smith, Chancellor Kent, and other high authorities, on the right of the laborer to sell his labor as best he can, the committee thus concluded:—

"And yet, in view of such opinions from the highest authority, and such decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States, we meekly submit to the unlawful and unjust dictates of a set of ignorant men. All of which is respectfully submitted."

We do not read that there was any action taken in the matter by the meeting, but probably there will be a good deal of solid thinking over it on the part of those most nearly interested. We should not be surprised to see, before long, productions run up largely in advance of present demand, and then a sudden stoppage all round, and a determined start taken by the proprietors for "better terms."—*Canadian Manufacturers*.

The Canning Industry.

The magnitude of the canning industry may be gained from an inspection of statistics of the business. Referring to the single item of tomatoes packed in tin cans, the *American Grocer* finds that 3,000,000 cases were packed in the United States in 1883, each containing two dozen tins. The exact figures are 70,645,896 cans. Their value at wholesale was about \$6,000,000. Maryland puts up about one-half of the product, and New Jersey over a fifth. There are 15 other States which have packing-houses, Delaware, Delaware, California and Ohio being the other principal packing States. Farmer packers in Hartford county, Maryland, are said to be satisfied if they get for their canned goods what is equivalent to 25 cents per bushel for the tomatoes grown, and say that this is better than raising wheat at \$2 per bushel. Notwithstanding this large product, there is apparently plenty of room for further extension even for home consumption alone. The pack of last year represents only about seven cans per annum for each family of five persons, and with prices kept down to moderate rates, two or three times that allowance would very likely be consumed. The collateral trade of making tin cans must be enormous, for, though tomatoes probably represent the chief part of the pack, all kinds of vegetables and fruits are "put up," and tin cans have to be made for nearly all of them. Glass would, of course, be preferable, but for the increased cost and the difficulty of sealing them perfectly.

Paper-Making in Egypt.

In the suburb of Boulak, the river-port of Cairo, is situated the Daira paper manufactory, which, before the late war broke out, used to employ regularly more than 200 hands, almost all natives. Most of the paper turned out is used for packing purposes in the khedival sugar factories; but there are also manufactured in the course of the year some 70,000 reams of very fair writing and printing paper, which more than supply the demand of the government offices of Cairo and Alexandria, and the requirements of the national press. The writing

paper is manufactured specially for Arabic writing, and to suit the peculiar style of Oriental penmanship; and therefore what is produced of this sort in excess of the requirements of the country is exported eastward rather than westward, a good deal of it going to Arabia, and a few bales even to India for the use of our Moslem fellow-subjects. Linen and cotton rags are used to a certain extent in the Boulak factory; but the interior of the sugar-cane supplies the Cairene paper maker with an inexhaustible supply of very workable material; while, in the production of what is called "straw" paper in Europe, the hilla grass plays a very important part. The Daira factory at Boulak enjoys a monopoly of this industry in Egypt; and in connection with it the national printing office, also under the control of the same administration. The extraordinary turn for paper-making displayed by the Boulak Arabs is, it need hardly be said, a hereditary accomplishment. They can point to a long line of ancestors who educated the East and West in successive stages of this useful art.—*London Globe*.

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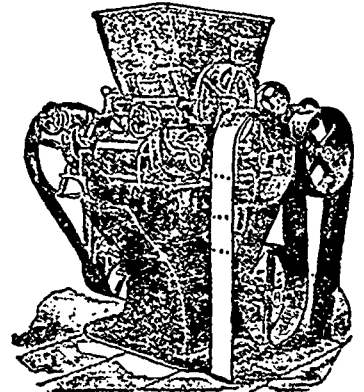
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