

In this last named venture of government interference with prison labor with a flourishing and legitimate private industry, giving employment to free and honest labor, the undertaking proved to be such a failure as to compel the disposal of it by farming it out to private individuals.

This brings the question back to the enquiry whether the government is right in employing prison labor in any pursuits in competition with free labor.

The matter has frequently been debated in the British House of Commons, and but as recently as August last, Mr. Lowles, M.P., said :

The question of the importation of foreign prison made goods had stirred the working classes of London, who were looking to the present government to do something to stop this terrible evil.

Mr. Chamberlain, criticising the action of the late government in the premises, said :

The late government had five months in which to deal with the question, and in the course of that time did nothing. The present government had already communicated with foreign government for the purpose of securing their willing assent to stopping this importation which was injurious to British trade. That was the first prescription. The pledge which his right honorable friend (Mr. Ritchie) had given to his constituents was a pledge which they considered in their private capacity they gave, and which they were prepared to carry out now they were in office. It would be most improper seeing that they had made these friendly representations to foreign powers to indicate what their second prescription would be if their friendly representations failed. They knew, however, what steps they would take.

The Department of State, at Washington, has recently promulgated some information it has received through its Consular service, regarding prison made goods and prison labor in Germany. These advices state that :

The competition of convict labor with free labor seems to be growing in this country, if the reports of a number of chambers of commerce and trade guilds are reliable, which undoubtedly they are. The resolutions and petitions of these bodies condemn this competition in the strongest terms, and even those who view this question impartially admit the ruin this competition works on the trade. The cheapness with which goods are manufactured in the prisons can no longer be met, it is claimed, by free labor.

In the prison at Erlangen, Bavaria, for instance, sixty pfennigs, or fourteen cents, are paid for making a pair of pants, and four marks and sixty pfennigs, or \$1.09½, for a whole suit of clothes. Then, too, in many prisons such machines are put up which permit the production of certain articles on a large scale, thus "flooding" the market with convict made goods, as the report of a Chamber of Commerce in Thuringia puts it. Machines of this character are chiefly those used for the manufacture of knitted goods. In fact, hosiery of all kinds is made in quite a number of prisons, viz. : Halle and Delitzsch, both in the Province of Saxony, and Grunhain, Zwickau, Waldheim and Hoheneck, in the Kingdom of Saxony. There are others, as appears from reports before me, the names of which, however, I have not yet been able to ascertain. The prison at Zwickau operates fifteen knitting machines, that at Waldheim eighty-seven and that at Hoheneck twenty-five. It is said that some of the largest firms in this branch of industry employ convict labor.

The chief markets for the prison made hosiery are, according to a statement obtained from an official source, Turkey, Brazil and the Argentine Republic for goods from the Zwickau prison, and Germany and England for goods from the prisons at Waldheim and Hoheneck. It will be observed that the United States is not mentioned as a market for these goods.

But it seems strange that the latter should go to every other country on the globe, except the United States, whereas this country is the chief market for Saxon hosiery.

It will be observed that although neither Canada nor the United States are mentioned as being markets for the prison made goods mentioned in the bulletin of the United States Department of State, yet from the exceedingly low prices at which such goods are sold on this side of the water, particularly in Canada, there can be no doubt that the bargain counters of our big departmental stores are supplied with articles that were produced by German prison labor. That we also receive from Germany our share of their exports of prison made hats, brushes, dolls, baskets, buttons and artificial flowers is doubtless true. The question is, to what extent shall their importation be permitted? How high a protective tariff must we have in order to exclude them and give the work to Canadian labor that is now being done in German jails.

THE FRENCH TREATY.

In view of the fact that the French Treaty with Canada came into effect on October 14th, the following statement shows how exports of Canadian products into France are affected. Up to the present date the exports of Canada to France have paid the maximum duty. Hereafter some twenty-one articles will be admitted into the French Republic at the minimum duty. The table shows the difference between the maximum and minimum duty on the articles in respect of which Canada enjoys an advantage :

Articles.	Tariff. Maximum.	Tariff. Minimum.
Canned meats per kilo.....	20 francs.	15 francs.
Condensed milk, pure.....	10 "	5 "
Fresh water eels.....	10 "	5 "
Fish preserved in their natural form.	30 "	25 "
Lobsters and crayfish preserved in their natural form.....	30 "	25 "
Apples and pears, fresh.....	3 "	2 "
Apples and pears, dried and fresh.	15 "	10 "
Fruits preserved, others.....	10 "	8 "
Building timber, in rough or sawn.	1 to 2½ "	65c. to 1½ "
Wood pavement.....	5 "	3½ "
Staves.....	1½ "	75 centimes.
Wood pulp (cellulose), mechanical.	75 centimes.	50 "
Wood pulp, chemical.....	2½ francs.	2 francs.
Extract of chestnut and other tanning extracts.....	5 "	3 "
Common paper, machine made....	13 "	10 "
Prepared skins, others, whole....	50 "	25 "
Boots and shoes.....	1 to 2½ "	½ to 2 "
Furniture of common wood.....	6 "	5 "
Furniture, other than chairs of solid wood, common.....	11 "	9 "
Other chairs.....	30 "	20 "
Wooden sea-going ships.....	5 "	2 "

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Some men try advertising as the Indian tried feathers. He took one feather, laid it on a board and slept on it all night. In the morning he remarked : "White man, say feathers heap soft ; white man d—— fool."

Thursday, Nov. 21st, has been chosen as Thanksgiving Day this year. This is about the same period of the year as last year, although in 1894 the date fell on the fourth Thursday. An Order in Council has been passed fixing the date. Thanksgiving day in the States is one week later, viz., Nov. 28th.