

operation for two and a half months in the year, the Dominion trade would have been supplied and that three and a half months' grinding represented the total output for twelve months.

WHEAT SHEAF ASSEMBLY, Knights of Labor, of Toronto, composed of bakers, has given public notice through the city papers that certain master bakers, whose names are mentioned, "having signed the agreement that exists between the masters and Wheat Sheaf Assembly Knights of Labor, are entitled to the patronage of all organized bodies and the public generally." For which gracious concession the Lord be praised. "The public generally" should be congratulated that Wheat Sheaf Assembly Knights of Labor, of Toronto, have formally consented that it may hereafter buy bread from the master bakers whose names are enumerated, and these gentlemen should be most profoundly grateful that the Assembly has declared them "entitled" to the patronage of their customers.

Men who talk about the freedom of contract and the danger of labor organizations interfering with rights of individuals, while the present wage system lasts, are either fools or canting humbugs.

WE extract the above morce u from the editorial columns of a Canadian labor paper, and commend the force and strength of the argument contained therein to all lovers of choice language. Hereafter when men talk about the freedom of contract and the danger of labor organizations interfering with the rights of individuals, not having previously reorganized the present wage system, they should bear in mind that, according to the forcible and logical argument of the labor paper above quoted, they are fools. And there is no appeal from this decision.

THE arrangements for the display of exhibits at the Grand Dominion and Industrial Exhibition which opens in Toronto next week are on a larger and more comprehensive scale than ever before. All of the old buildings have been refitted and the most of them considerably enlarged, and several new buildings have been erected, and all of them are in readiness for the event. Considerable machinery has been placed in position and connections made with the motive power, and about every foot of available space on the grounds has been already assigned to exhibitors. Nothing has been left undone by the manager which could possibly have been accomplished to make the affair an unbounded and most gratifying success, and it will, no doubt, be the greatest event of the sort that has ever occurred in Canada.

THE Union Straw Board Company, in the United States, is one of those combinations of manufacturing concerns somewhat peculiar to that country, which are formed into "pools" for the purpose of restricting production and maintaining prices. Of such character are the Bessemer Steel Company, which is composed of those concerns which manufacture steel rails, or have plants for doing so; the Union Barb Wire Company, composed of the barb wire manufacturers, and a number of other similar organizations. The Union Straw Board Company embraces about all of the straw board manufacturers in the United States, and these are so numerous that their aggregate product is far in excess of the consumptive demand

for such goods, and the object of the combination is to prevent over-production. It is said of the company that it controls 95 per cent. of the straw board capacity of the country, and it has just ordered the closing down of some eight of the largest mills.

A prominent farmer resident about 30 miles from this city is authority for the statement that where there was one farmer coming to Toronto to trade ten years ago, there are a dozen to-day. Whether the proportion is stated with exactness, the great increase in the number of farmers trading here is a patent fact. The gentleman in question gives the opinion that the causes for the increase are many. The greatly improved railway facilities probably have more to do with it than anything else, the general attraction of the city to visitors, the advantages offered for the ready disposal at good prices of everything the farm produces, and others also contributing. The farming trade is now an immense one, and there are great establishments which are devoted mainly to the cultivation of this class of business.—*Toronto Globe*.

JUST so. Toronto is an active, thriving manufacturing city, and many thousands of her population find steady employment in her factories, work-shops, and other industrial establishments. These all require just such farm produce as is above alluded to, the immense trade in which, as the *Globe* states, is so profitable to the neighboring farmers. But the *Globe*, echoing a silly expression of Mr. Erastus Wiman, insists that these same farmers are "hopeless and helpless," although the farmers themselves think very differently, and see no chance for bettering their condition than by removing the barrier that keeps out foreign cheap labor competition, and that makes it possible for these thousands of inhabitants of Toronto to consume the products of these farmers.

Goldwin Smith, who voted with the protectionists in 1878 and stumped for Macdonald candidates, now says: Protection is like the eye salve of the inventor in the American comedy. The more people use it the more they want it. The manufacturers are all crowding to Ottawa, each to get more protection for himself; and at last the industries of this country will be so protected that the people will clear out and go to a cheaper country. Canada will be left to the protected manufacturers and the protectionist politicians.

THE above is clipped from the *Hamilton Times*, though we have never seen this particular paragraph credited to Professor Goldwin Smith. The average annexationist is capable of uttering a great deal of nonsense, but this dose is too nauseating, and surely Mr. Smith could not have written or spoken it. The annexationists are fairly crazy to have Canada made a part and parcel of the United States, and constantly declaim upon the thrift and wealth of that country, but they neglect to tell that in that country, pre-eminently more than in any other country on the globe, "protection is the eye-salve of the inventor," and that "the more the people use it the more they want it." The idea that "at last the industries of this country will be so protected that the people will clear out and go to a cheaper country," and that "Canada will be left to the protected manufacturers," is absurdly ridiculous and amusing. The United States have grown rich under protection, and according to recent advices the people there are not clearing out to any great and alarming extent, and emigrating to cheaper countries. Our impression is that the tide runs in the other direction.