

constantly increasing, the latter being returned at 489,201 in 1888. In 1889 the output had increased to the figures of 690,688.

The area of the Nanaimo coal field is estimated at about 200 square miles, beside the fact that new fields are constantly being discovered. Nanaimo abounds on all sides by immense deposits of copper, silver, iron, lead, zinc, granite, marble, lime and salt springs.

The corporation spent over \$50,000 within the past twelve months in improving and opening up new streets, while the New Vancouver Coal Company may be said to have spent a like sum.

This year the city council intend to borrow \$124,000 for city improvements, so that property promises to bring double the present value in six months hence. The streets are to be lighted by electricity, and for this purpose the city council intend to purchase an electric light plant to light up the city with the "arc" system. Application has been made to the Legislature for a charter to grant the right of way for an electric tramway, to run throughout the city and district. All the capital for this project has already been subscribed and the work of building the road is to be shortly commenced. The new buildings and industries to be started this summer are numerous.

PROTECTION IS A NECESSITY.

HISTORY shows that whenever the tariff on foreign products has been materially reduced, the industries engaged in making corresponding products here have languished; that when the repeal of inimical laws were long delayed, disaster has ensued, and, in some instances, the affected industries have been abandoned altogether. In view of such facts, it is important that voters should not lose sight of those results of protection without which a diversity of industries would be impossible, except through reduction in wages to the level of other countries. The free trader admits this by his contention that protection encourages, by enhanced prices, the building up of industries that otherwise would find no footing in this country. Among the benefits derived from protection is a largely increased demand for labor, by which it is possible for every man to get work of some kind if he really wants it. This comes from the diversity of employments afforded. We have now some sixty-six millions of people in the United States, about one-fifth of them heads of families. All these cannot be farmers and earn enough to buy the necessities of life. They could raise enough to eat, and a large surplus in addition, but there is not in all the world a demand for farm products sufficient to pay for their other household necessities—such as clothing, furniture, cooking utensils, carpets, etc.—if these were made in foreign countries. Outside of farming, there is absolutely no employment at which the majority of those who are compelled to work for a living could engage, and earn enough to keep themselves and families from want. Hence it is that diversification of industries, which can be secured only through the policy of protection, is a necessity to individual comfort and family maintenance as well as to national growth and independence. — *American Economist*.

LADY MACDONALD.

THE part that Lady Macdonald plays in her husband's life is not to be set forth in a few words, says *The Ladies' Home Journal*. All that Lady Beaconsfield was to the Conservative Premier of England, Lady Macdonald has been, and is, to the Conservative Premier of Canada. If any one on earth knows his mind, it is she. Their understanding of each other is complete, and their matrimonial felicity unruffled. How much Canada owes to Lady Macdonald for the help she has given her greatest statesman, only the Premier himself can fitly estimate.

The wife of the Premier is a frequent attendant at the sittings of Parliament, the best seat in the Speaker's gallery being always reserved for her, and no important debate takes place that she does not follow it to the final vote, though the daylight may be dimming the electric lights.

Lady Macdonald is tall and tawny, with warm tints glowing in her cheeks. Her abundant hair a few years ago became white as snow, and now makes a wonderfully becoming aureole about her high, broad forehead. Energy and determination are unmistakably stamped upon a countenance whose habitual expression is somewhat grave. Yet when moved to laughter, the whole face lights up until every trace of care and anxious thought vanishes from it. In the art of conversation she has nothing to learn. She is an omnivorous reader, and not only reads, but digests and assimilates her

reading, while a retentive memory keeps at command all that she acquires. She forms her own opinions about the subjects of the day, and never hesitates to express them in clear, concise terms. To the full extent of her time and ability she co-operates in all religious and philanthropic enterprises and associations that commend themselves to her approval. Neither does she hold aloof from balls, dinners, receptions and other fatiguing features of social life at the Canadian capital, nor disdain to take a lively personal interest in the fascinating subject of dress.

When Parliament is in session her drawing-room on Saturdays is filled with an everchanging flow of visitors from three o'clock until dinner time. Yet no one of them fails to receive a warm clasp of the hand, a bright, appropriate greeting, and the impression that the hostess is quite as glad to see them as if they were the only callers. With a dozen in the room at once, the most of them utter strangers to each other, Lady Macdonald will contrive to keep the ball of talk rolling so merrily that all feel they have a share in the conversation.

SWEDEN STEPS INTO THE PROTECTION RANKS.

"THAT a wave of Protectionist feeling is overspreading the governments of leading continental countries is unmistakable," frankly admits the *London Iron and Coal Trades Review*. "Unfortunately," adds our contemporary, "this is so much the worse for our own (English) trade." "France," it goes on to say, "is exhibiting more clearly her hostility to Free Trade doctrines; Italy has done what she could to exclude British iron; Spain needs more money and favours increased import duties to raise it; and we need not say that German authorities take sides against the Free Traders." And now Sweden steps into the ranks of Protection countries.

The work of revising the duties was entrusted to the Tariff Commission, which has just reported to Parliament, recommending the imposition of higher import duties all round. The following are the principal changes proposed, as far as regards the iron and allied trades:

	PRESENT DUTY.	PROPOSED DUTY.
Pig iron.....	free	\$4.98 per ton.
Rails.....	"	5.47 "
Tin plates.....	"	16.20 "
Cast iron tubes (including tubes for machinery).....	"	4.05 "
Rolled tubes.....	"	10.81 "
Metal wire 1½ mm thick and above.....	\$10.94	21.87 "
Copper plates, bolts, etc.....	free	.01 per lb.
Copper tubes and pipes.....	"	.02 "
Machinery, implements, tools.....	"	10% ad val.

Cutlery imports are rather heavily taxed already, but the duties are to be further raised, as are the duties on all kinds of cast iron goods, in accordance with the resolutions of the Parliament of 1888.

It is estimated that the new duties will effect an increase of \$777,600 in the revenue, and it is difficult to see how the Swedish Parliament, with the examples of other Protectionist nations before them, can resist the logic of events sufficiently to defeat the proposed tariff. Of course the first and chief sufferers will be English manufacturers. — *Cleveland Iron Trade Review*.

SOME splendid machinery was on the C.P.R. wharf to-day consigned to the New Vancouver Coal Company. These are the engines and other apparatus for their new shafts. The machinery is all excellent in design, material and workmanship, the engines being models of compactness and strength. The whole is from the William Hamilton Manufacturing Company, of Peterborough, Ont., whose Pacific coast office is 408 Cordova street. — *Vancouver, B.C., Telegram*.

THE recent accidents in the Pennsylvania mines have drawn attention to the general way in which mine laws are disregarded, and emphasized the value of electricity as a lighting power. There is a certain class of men, who, disregarding all injunctions to the contrary, will go into dangerous places with a naked light, risking not only their own safety but imperilling the lives of others. This could be avoided by the use of electricity as a lighting power in mines. The Mammoth mine disaster has served to call attention to this question, and also to another one of equal moment and equal importance. That is, that the changes in the barometer, indicative of a storm, have a considerable effect upon the accumulation of gases in a mine. The barometric depression is peculiarly productive of this condition of affairs in England, and the belief exists that the