

comes from the capital and labor engaged in that industry. And it does seem unfair, that men who have invested capital making certain goods should be subjected to competition from the Government, or that the workers in the industry should have their wages reduced because convicts are employed at the same trade. The inmates of the Central Prison have for some time engaged in the manufacture of binder twine. The burning of the prison factory is taken as an opportunity on the part of those engaged in his industry to protest against a continuation of this work by the Provincial Government. Wholesale and retail merchants are being asked to sign a petition to this effect. It is recited among other things that "the manufacture of cordage and binder twine is one of Canada's largest and most important industries, employing from 1,800 to 2,000 operators, and including numerous plants more than sufficient to supply all the needs of the Canadian trade." Is it not possible to employ the convicts in ways that will not so seriously interfere with the course of trade? The farmers, who are under the obligation of statute labor on the roads, would probably offer no objection to assistance from the convicts. It would seem quite practicable that at least a number of the men confined for their crimes and misdeeds could be well employed in this work.

REACHING OUT FOR TRADE.

The Canadian-Australian liner, the "Miowera" carried from Victoria on her last trip thirty-two tons of British Columbia hops. These hops are the product of a single grower at Saanich. Previously the hops grown in British Columbia have been shipped to Great Britain, and it is said this is the first shipment of hops from the Canadian Pacific coast to Australia. The experiment will be watched with interest by all interested in this industry. It was thought some years ago that Canada would soon build up a considerable export trade in hops, but these hopes have not been realized. In 1893, hops to the value of \$48,244, were sent abroad, principally to Great Britain. Since that time the trade has steadily declined, until in 1896 the exports were valued at only \$13,686, of which Britain took almost the entire yield. The Japanese, imitating Europeans and Americans in their industrial methods, are also adopting their habits of life. Beer, it is said, is becoming a favorite drink in the Orient, and it may be worth the while to enquire as to the possibility of finding there a profitable market for Canadian hops and barley. If we accept the view of the Canadian Commissioner to Japan, Mr. George Anderson, who returned yesterday to Toronto from his three-months visit to that country, it is not easy to exaggerate the future extent of Japanese trade or its possibilities as far as they concern Canada. That nation of forty-two millions, skillful, enterprising, eager for development and determined upon trade, offers to Canada extraordinary opportunity in the mind of the commissioner. The Japanese have just adopted a gold standard—they have an excellent mint—and are preparing themselves by study and practice for becoming a commercial nation. "They are developing their industrial and commercial resources first," Mr. Anderson tells THE MONETARY TIMES; "they are extending their railway system, and next they will, I believe, devote themselves to increasing their marine. They have already one of the largest steamship companies in the world in the Kippon Yusen Kaisha, but they will very soon extend their lines of navigation both eastward and westward. They have just attempted a loan of 67,000,000 yen (equal to about \$33,500,000 of our currency), but only some three or four millions of it has been subscribed in Japan. They will, therefore, probably go abroad with it.

After having visited Tokio, the capital; Yokohama, the great shipping port, Nagasaki, Kobe, Osaka, and a dozen other cities of the Japanese Empire, Mr. Anderson returns fully convinced that a trade of great extent and variety is possible between Japan and Canada. Not caring to particularize in advance of his official report, he yet declares that a hundred items of Canadian produce and manufacture will find market in Japan. The Japanese consume a great quantity of lumber, and they have been getting it mainly from Oregon and Washington States, the reason apparently being in part that British Columbia people had not looked after the trade. At present the Pacific Coast States are supplying a large quantity which British Columbia might easily supply. The North-West Territories and Manitoba can send flour and grain, a great deal of which is now being supplied by Oregon and California. While it is true that what has already been sent from Canada has been found very satisfactory. The Japanese are by no means as well acquainted with Canadian flour and grain as they should be. No less than 160,000 barrels of flour was sold them by the Americans in 1896, while Canada's share of this trade was but trivial. They buy largely of leather, too, in the States, and we can surely sell them leather. Of late, too, they have developed an immense demand for steam engines and boilers. The goods they have to send us in return we shall hear about more in detail when Mr. Anderson's full report comes out. Some of them were indicated in THE MONETARY TIMES more than a year ago. Meanwhile it is of moment to learn, as we do, that the general feeling in Japan is that trade with Canada will be most beneficial, and that there exists a general desire for trade extension with us.

A million and a half pounds of canned beef has been prepared for the Japanese army by a firm in Kansas City. Shipment of this meat was made over the Canadian Pacific Railway to Vancouver, whence it went by steamer to Nagasaki. It is satisfactory that Canadians obtain indirectly by their advantageous carrying facilities a share in this trade, but it would be far more satisfactory if the meat had been prepared in Canada. Large quantities of cattle are shipped from the ranches of the Canadian Northwest to the United Kingdom. The journey is a long one, and it is needless to say the cattle when they arrive in England or Scotland are in anything but the best condition. The exporters are put to great expense in carrying live stock so long a distance, only to find the cattle on arrival bruised and short in weight. Little foresight is needed to show that the more economical and effective method of trading is to establish abattoirs at some central point in the cattle ranching district. A meat packing house in Manitoba and the Territories, with plant suited to production on a large scale should be able to accomplish a great deal in the export trade. The shipping facilities to the old established markets of Great Britain, or to the new and attractive markets of the Orient are unexcelled by any in the United States. There is practically an inexhaustible supply of land in Manitoba and the Territories suitable for grazing purposes, and all that is wanted to bring profit to farmer, drover and packer is combination of pluck, capital and energy.

AUDITORS—THEIR DUTIES AND LIABILITY.

The moral conscience of the business community has been too frequently shocked of late by the defalcations of persons in positions of trust. Confidential agents, municipal treasurers, and officers of corporations have been found short in their accounts, some being brought to justice, others fleeing successfully from it. And in nearly all the