

responsible leaders, to whom they were paying good salaries; they wearied of humble submission to the insolence of "walking delegates" whose interests lay in fomenting disturbances; and they were disgusted at the unfair and harassing treatment to which their employers were subjected. If a large body of free American citizens had continued to yield obedience to such masters as controlled the organization there would have been good occasion for surprise and good reason for doubting if such men are indeed fit to exercise the powers of self government. That they threw off the yoke and asserted their independence by tens of thousands is one of the most hopeful of the signs which have appeared among the handicraftsmen of this country.

"Where the Knights failed no other organization can hope to succeed. The skill and effort which were required to bring this great society into existence will hardly again be exerted to accomplish a similar result with a certainty of ultimate failure. What Powderly and his co-workers could not do, other men, with equal talent, will hardly venture to try to do. That workmen should combine to help one another, and to maintain in a general way the cause of labor, is wholly commendable. But such combinations must act within certain clearly-defined limitations. They must confine themselves to giving help to those that are in trouble and to resisting attempts to oppress the worker. These things are legitimate and praiseworthy; but whenever such a combination goes so far as to attempt itself to engage in oppression it will provoke strenuous resistance, and it will certainly fail. It may protect its own rights, but it must not invade the rights of others. The employer has rights which are as much entitled to respect as those of the man who is employed, and public sentiment will not permit them to be trampled on by anybody. The place for the workingman to obtain justice for himself is at the polls, where he will find the body of the people ready to help him to obtain everything he ought to have."

TARIFF PERCENTAGES.

For the fiscal year ending 1887-88 the percentage of duty on the total value of goods imported into Canada for home consumption was 21.57. Taking the different countries from which the principal exports come, the figures show some surprising discrimination, as the following table will show:—

COUNTRY.	IMPORTS.	DUTY.	P. C.
Great Britain	39,298,721	8,972,739	23
United States	48,481,848	7,109,233	15
France	2,243,784	796,242	35
Germany	3,364,563	1,214,748	36
Japan	1,216,479	20,555	2
West Indies	3,268,663	1,831,367	58
Brazil	681,482	458,364	67
Belgium	488,743	117,228	24
Spain	374,932	171,790	46
Newfoundland	421,599	3,211	7
Holland	331,791	704,034	212
China	912,228	142,228	15

On an import of \$17 from the Argentine Republic, we paid a duty of \$14.76, or 81 per cent., and on an import of \$175 from Mexico we paid a duty of \$203.25, or 116 per cent. These are interesting comparisons and indicate how wonderful are the workings of a protective tariff.—*Montreal Herald*.

These tariff percentage arguments are fearfully and wonderfully constructed, and specially intended to carry awe and consternation into the strongholds of Protection. And then they show some "surprising discrimination" in favor of some and against other countries. Taking the averaged duty on importations of merchandise into Canada to be 21.57 per cent., as the *Herald*

states, reference to its table shows that the duty imposed upon importations from Britain, the average of which was 23 per cent., came nearer the general average than that upon importations from any other country. About every article of merchandise imported from Britain was dutiable; dutiable because the imports belonged to the more advanced and therefore more expensive classes of manufactures. On the other hand a large proportion of the imports from the United States were "raw materials," and as such admitted free of duty; and it was for this cause that there was a seeming "discrimination" in favor of that country and against Britain. The percentages as affecting importations from the United States and China were the same, although no similar articles were imported from these countries. Imports from Japan were taxed but two per cent., because but few articles coming from there can be manufactured in Canada, and it is against the policy of Protection to tax articles that it is evident we can never produce here. On the other hand the duty on the merchandise imported from Holland—consisting chiefly of jewels, precious stones, etc.—although not produced in Canada to any appreciable extent, are taxed very high because they are articles of luxury which only the wealthy, who alone can afford to use them, have to pay. The *Herald* cites one import from the Argentine Republic, valued at \$17, which paid a duty amounting to 81 per cent. on its value; and another import from Mexico valued at \$175, on which an *ad valorem* duty of 116 per cent. was levied. It should have shown that these two specific articles were luxuries that only the wealthy could afford, and this fact is suppressed by the suppression of the names of the two articles.

In reply to an enquiry regarding the matter, we are in receipt of the following letter from the Minister of Customs that explains itself. We commend the perusal of it to the *Toronto Mail*, which persistently puts the bounty paid to Canadian manufacturers of pig iron at a much higher figure:—

To the Editor of the CANADIAN MANUFACTURER:

SIR,—I have to inform you in reply to your enquiry that the bounty paid by the Dominion Government on pig iron manufactured in Canada from Canadian ore is one dollar per ton.

Yours, truly,

M. BOWELL.

WORKING WOMEN IN LARGE CITIES.

HON. CARROLL D. WRIGHT, the United States Commissioner of Labor, has sent us his fourth annual report, the subject of which is "Working Women in Large Cities." In this matter the object of Mr. Wright was to secure information relative to the condition of working women in a general sense, and, according to the introductory, "by working women is meant that class of women who earn their living in the occupations calling for manual labor. The professional and semi professional callings, like those of teaching, stenography, type-writing, telegraphy, etc., have not, as a rule, been recognized in the investigation, nor have women employed in textile factories been included, except incidentally." The latter not being included, because not as a rule located in large cities, and the special object of the investigation being to discover what cities have to offer women in the way of manual labor.

The study includes 343 distinct industries, and relates to twenty-two of the largest cities in the country. The total