

# AMERICAN MERCHANTS MAGAZINE AND PATENT OFFICE RECORD

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## CANADIAN INVENTIONS.

LABOUR SAVING MACHINES BEGET WEALTH TO A COUNTRY.

E opened the January number of this MAGAZINE, for the present year, with a leading article on the influence the late Centennial Exposition of the United States would have upon our own country, and at the same time promised occasionally to return to the subject. That the exhibit made by Canada had a great effect upon English manufacturers, and such foreigners who visited

the Exposition, we have every day convincing proofs from reading articles that appear frequently in many Trade Circulars and Scientific papers; not exactly so much in praise, as in the tone of alarm expressed that this country, like the United States, will soon become, if not already, a rival to their trade in the manufacturing of certain staple articles. Even now we are underselling English manufacturers in the trade of boots and shoes, in those towns where they have hitherto held unrivalled sway.

The population of the Dominion of Canada being a mixed race, is well suited for carrying on to advantage many kinds of manufactures, more so, in fact, than if its inhabitants consisted of one race only. French Canadians, both male and female, are particularly well adapted to work in manufactories where the labor is not too heavy, and they readily pick up any business they are put to. We have, therefore, a large population in the Province of Quebec that can always be profitably employed in manufacturing boots and shoes, furniture, and woodwork generally. The inhabitants of the Province of Ontario consist of a great number of sturdy, cautious Scotchmen who are well adapted for their favorite occupation of farming, and judging from the increasing demand in England for fresh meat from America, fruits and other produce, and the ascertained fact that fresh meat can be exported to England with a certainty of

profit, a fine field is now opened for agricultural enterprise. The people of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward's Island have, in addition to many of the advantages which other parts of the Dominion possess, their coal mines, and extensive marine front, which can be turned into great wealth; whilst even the inhabitants of Newfoundland, who are unengaged in fishing, might have their spare time, during long winters, profitably employed in manufacturing many staple articles of more or less value. British Columbia, and Manitoba also, although but infant colonies, will no doubt find many sources from which wealth can be extracted.

The reader at this point may say: We are well aware that we possess all these advantages, that our population, of mixed races, is well suited for manufacturing and farming, and that we possess all the crude elements of wealth in rich mineral deposits and our forests trees, but how are we to turn these into gold, in the face of restrictive tariffs; how are we to compete with the United States, alone, and against their heavy protective duties?

We answer this question by asking, how is it that the manufacturers in the United States, more heavily taxed, paying higher for material and labour than ourselves, are able so successfully to compete in the English markets with Home manufacturers? How is it that they send their goods to all parts of Europe, China, Japan and other parts of the world and make it profitable? Have they any greater advantages in trading with the world at large, in the same commodities that we could supply, except in their open winter—have we not less taxes on our manufactures, cheaper labour and less costly raw material? Then why is it that they possess greater advantages? Why is it that their manufacturers can actually buy our lumber, pay a duty of twenty per cent for its importation to the States, and freight besides, manufacture it into furniture and other kinds of woodwork, pay a higher price for labour to make it up, and then send it back to Canada manufactured, after paying more freight and 17½ per cent. duty on the manufactured goods, and still be able to undersell the manufacturers of the same class of goods in our own country? This statement our makers of furniture must concede to be true. There is no use in shutting our eyes to this hard fact, or setting down bad times as a cause for American manufacturers