

well ask the sun to consent to rise in the west and set in the east as to expect that they can by any combination effect any radical change in its workings.

It is true that in some cases such combinations temporarily effect their purpose, and for a time it seems as if they had triumphed, but with the pressure of hard times comes a scarcity of work and a consequent lowering of wages back to the former low water mark. This constant change of value in labor is as certain as the ebb and flow of the ocean sides, and as we have said before, any attempt to permanently change the effect of this natural law would be attended with failure in either case.

There is nothing antagonistic between capital and labor, if their duties and rights were properly understood. They are naturally dependent the one upon the other, and unless they walk hand in hand neither of them can expect to be properly remunerated.

The striking workmen declare that they are bound to refrain from work until they can get the price they ask for it; this is all right enough as long as they do not interfere with those who are willing to work and take the rate that is offering. The strikers, while desirous of getting the highest price for what they have to sell, very illogically refuse to allow the "Bosses" to purchase the labor they require in the lowest market they can find. Here is the weak point of these strikes, and here it is that they fail in effecting any permanent good.

We think that the employers of Toronto have done a wise thing in "taking the bull by the horns" and declaring that they will only treat with their employees individually and not as a body. The weakest point of these Unions is that they demand that their members shall all be paid the same wages, good, bad and indifferent, it makes no matter, the pay must be alike.

If the Unions would grade their members according to their ability as workmen, the evil would be more than half remedied, but this they refuse to do, and as a consequence the first-class workmen that can almost at any time and under any circumstances command the very highest rate of wages going, are compelled to drag their less skillful but more demonstrative companions up the steep incline of necessity.

There are many other points of this subject upon which we could touch did

space permit, but we will only close with the hope that ere long the workmen of this country will see that capital is neither necessarily oppressive nor antagonistic to labor, but that the rights of each being properly understood and enforced, the result will be a more skillful and higher paid class of mechanics and a better feeling between the employer and employed.

THE JEWELRY TRADE AND THE N. P.

It is perfectly wonderful how differently trade questions appear when viewed through political spectacles. From a Conservative standpoint the fiscal policy of the present Government is all that could be desired to make the country prosperous and happy, while the Reform view of the same question seems to be that it is a most unjustifiable interference with the liberties of the people, and that on account of its oppressive tendencies the country is going headlong to the dogs.

Both of these views are no doubt highly colored, according to the sources from which they emanate, and every candid person must admit, that while both are correct in some particulars, both are also wrong in others, and that the correct estimate probably lies midway between the two extremes.

The extreme diversity of the views upon this subject reminds us very much of a landscape we once viewed in a Scottish museum, which by means of different colored panes of glass, set side by side, the observer was enabled to view in every transition of nature—spring, summer, autumn and winter. Although the illusion was perfect the scenery was always the same; it was only the difference in the color of the glass looked through which make it appear different. So it is with such subjects as this, the facts are always the same and it depends entirely through which party spectacles we view them, how they are going to appear to us.

In the few sentences we propose to write upon the present relation of the jewelry trade and the N. P. we shall, ignoring entirely the green and blue goggles of politics, try and view the question through the clear crystal of mercantile experience.

First, then, has the N. P. benefitted or injured the jewelry trade of Canada? To

this question, we are sorry to say, we cannot give the unqualified assent that we should desire. We are, however, of the opinion that on the whole the present fiscal policy has been favorable rather than otherwise to it, but that its success would have been more real could the Government have been induced to reorganize it in accordance with the wishes of the great bulk of the trade. There is no doubt that to some extent the higher duty on jewelry has in some small degree added to our manufactures, but we do not think that the additional 2½ per cent. duty imposed can be traced the whole of the large increase.

Upon the whole we rather incline to the opinion that the manufacturing jewelry trade has increased and prospered in spite of the tariff more than in consequence of it.

As we said before the addition of 2½ per cent. was not a very heavy protection to our manufacturing jewelers, and we do not think that any one who hesitated to embark in its manufacture under the old 17½ per cent. has been induced by this limited increase to change his mind regarding it. That this increase of duty has had an appreciable effect on the quantity of goods smuggled into this country there can be no doubt, for just in proportion as it increased the value of regularly imported goods, it made the incentive to smuggle all the greater by making the reward better worth while running the risk for. We have always said that if the Government can possibly collect this duty by all means let them levy it, because it will help the Canadian Manufacturer without in any way injuring the importer, but if they cannot possibly collect this duty (and there cannot now be any doubt upon this point) then they should protect the trade by the only method in their power, viz: by lowering the duty to a point where smuggling would cease to be profitable.

We said before we thought the jewelry trade had prospered, not because of the tariff but in spite of it; the real reasons for its growth and prosperity, we think, consist in the fact that the good harvests have largely increased the demand for certain classes of goods that can be profitably manufactured here, and equally important that the long period of depression in the English jewelry trade had rendered business so unprofitable that numbers of skilled workmen were forced to emigrate to this country in search of