

that those immense mills that have heretofore given employment to American labor are either in idleness or have been transferred to Canada, where they give employment to Canadian labor. This is what Mr. Charlton alluded to when he said that this one-sided exchange of products was due to the excessive rates of the Dingley tariff. And the conditions regarding nickel will also most probably shape themselves in the same way. The product of all the nickel mines in the United States is not sufficient to meet the requirement of its mint for manufacturing its nickel coin; and Canada is, of necessity, depended upon to supply the demand, and yet, under the thumb-screw process, a prohibitive Dingley duty of six cents a pound is imposed to prevent Canada refining its own nickel for the American market. How long would the United States have submitted to such a condition as has been imposed upon Canada? The temper of our people is sorely tried, and our neighbors need feel no surprise should Canada at an early day, inaugurate a reciprocity of tariffs as regards nickel, charging an export duty of six cents per pound upon the metal contained in the ore or matte which now goes to American works to be refined. Had it not been for the thumb-screw process Canada would not to-day be building up such a wonderful iron and steel industry, the products of which are now invading both the United States and the British markets.

The Bulletin reminds us that notwithstanding our tariff preference in favor of Great Britain, we continue to buy American goods in preference to like products from the Mother Country; but it should remember that the spirit that forced the transference of the Michigan lumber industry to Canadian soil is alive to the proposition to impose a heavy export duty on nickel, and a general import duty upon American manufactures precisely equivalent to the American duty imposed upon Canadian products of similar character. Our esteemed contemporary entertains the idea, and tells us that as for reciprocity with Canada, or any other scheme for reducing American duties on Canadian products, its country has nothing to gain but much to lose; but it may find, and at an early day, that its trade with its third largest customer—an export trade worth about \$120,000,000 a year—has dwindled away considerably.

#### THE STRENUOUS LIFE.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association recently announced that woolen machinery in Canada capable of producing nearly three million dollar's worth of goods a year had within the past few years been thrown into disuse, claiming that the cause therefor was the insufficient tariff duty imposed upon such goods under the British preference. No doubt the duty, either general or preferential, is entirely too low to afford the protection to the home industry necessary to keep it in healthy condition; and it is to be hoped that the representations being made to the Dominion Government in this matter will result in an increase of such duties.

To our mind, however, the abandonment of this large quantity of machinery is not attributable entirely to the insufficiency of the tariff, but to the fact that it is not of the efficiency demanded of machinery in modern up-to-date mills. There are a number of woolen mills from which we hear complaints of undue competition through the lack of proper tariff protection against the product of mills in other countries; but we do not hear of any of their machinery being abandoned for that or any other cause, because it is equal to the best machinery in use in competing mills; and we have reason for believing that the disused machinery is of a charac-

ter that should have caused it to be consigned to the scrap pile years ago. Unfortunately for themselves, and for the industry generally, the owners of it imagine that as long as it will hold together and be made to produce fabrics they cannot afford to discard it. Perhaps fabrics produced with such machinery may be quite as good as any, but it cannot be claimed that the cost of production is as low as that of similar fabrics produced with modern, up-to-date machinery. In these days of strenuous competition the manufacturer who does not avail himself of the very best machinery to be had cannot but fall to the rear, and ultimately drop out of the race.

It cannot be said of any kind of machinery, says the Age of Steel, that it has reached the point where improvement is impossible. New machinery and better tools are being constantly added to manufacturers' lists. They come and go with increasing persistence, and what is a time and labor-saver to-day is being supplemented or supplanted without any regard to dates. Inventive genius knows no halt, and is in unbroken movement round the orbit of industrial life. It cannot be boycotted, strangled, starved, or sun-dried. In speed, accuracy of work and simplicity of construction we have the ideal of inventive ambition. It is only by retrospect that we see the wide difference between the old and the new. No industry has been exempt from change or the spirit of progress that is brooding over everything. It presides at the loom and the forge, and in mine and mill. In cutting lumber and fashioning iron, in stamping dies and making spoons, and from the building of a bridge to the manufacture of a pill box, the use of improved machinery and tools is everywhere visible. The machinery industry is becoming one of the great potentials of trade, and in the exchange of the old for the new, we have a business that is rounding out to large proportions.

The manufacturer behind the times in the use of improved machinery travels a rocky road, not to fortune, but insolvency. Machinery is rapidly displacing hand labor, and it will go on doing so till the last spindle hums, and the last wheel turns in the industrial world.

#### THE TORONTO INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

Canada's great Industrial Fair, as the Toronto Exhibition has been heralded, was run at a loss this year. The directors in an "interim" report to the Board of Control announce that while their expenses were lower this year by \$783 their receipts were lower by \$22,935, and consequently they are in debt, to the tune of \$5,578. Even this does not represent their actual loss, because in addition to this amount, they have used up the \$10,000 reserve fund which they got from the city. They claimed it was necessary to have this to start business on, and while the directors do not ask for another \$10,000 to replace this amount at present they will, no doubt, do so soon, as a \$10,000 reserve is as necessary now as when it was first granted. The Exhibition directors will be content, at present, at any rate, if the city gives them \$6,000. They point out that since the arrangement of 1899 they have handed over profits amounting to \$14,000 or \$15,000. The profits of two years are swallowed up by the loss of the present year, which is \$16,000, including the \$10,000 reserve which has disappeared.—The Toronto Evening Telegram.

On two recent occasions the directors of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition Association have urged the Toronto City Council to invite the taxpayers to vote a large sum of money for erecting new buildings on the Fair Grounds, and the repairing of some of those already there. Without doubt these improvements were and are now absolutely required for the proper and successful conduct of the Fair; and unless they are made it is difficult to see how manufacturers and others whose exhibits are essential as attractions, can be induced to patronize the concern as heretofore. Regarding the first occa-