

while some of the conspirators will suffer, though Prince Napoleon is safe in his retreat in Russia, whence, however, he will be debarred from returning to France.

The American National Association of Manufacturers at a meeting held in Detroit, resolved that "the object of the tariff revision should be to furnish adequate protection to such products only as required it, without providing for monopoly abuses." This is a confession from the manufacturers themselves that there is too much protection. The leading American commercial journal interprets it as meaning that "a very considerable number of the 463 dutiable items of the United States tariff, and particularly most of the items included under schedule C. relating to metals and manufactures thereof, might be placed on the free list without detriment to the interests of the American manufacturers." When American manufactures have become a menace to all other nations, the National Association of Manufacturers cannot be wrong in admitting that the necessity for protection has been largely diminished by the proved competitive ability of the United States. The American manufacturer knows how to levy a tax on home consumers; and out of this tax a large expenditure is incurred to capture foreign markets. Such a system creates very unfair competition. The American manufacturer does not compete in foreign markets on equal terms; he often has the advantage of a private bounty levied on the American public in his favor. Against this cut-throat system the nations competed against would be justified in using almost any weapons within their reach. And as a matter of fact, threats of combinations to oppose it are heard, and they may be put into effect. It is time the American manufacturer should try to swim without cork or belt. The National Association admits that a trial should be made; but doubtless the average American manufacturer is far from admitting that his right to fleece the American public ought to come to an end.

ASSOCIATED LABOR.

While the formidable strike of metal workers in the Central States of the American Union is the event which attracts universal attention among manufacturers, there are labor troubles and threatenings of trouble nearer home. What is tending to widen the breach between employers and employed is the exacting demand which the men make in addition to, sometimes instead of, asking higher pay. Two-hundred brass-founders, employed by six firms in Toronto, have struck for higher pay and shorter hours. These, one of the employers, the James Morrison Company, is willing to concede. But the men are not satisfied and insist on tying him down as to whom he shall employ and some other particulars; Mr. Morrison therefore refuses to be bound by the requirements of the Union. To do so would be to surrender control of his business.

What we were told years ago by Mr. McNally, who wrote for this journal the spirited description of the Telegraphers' Strike of 1893 in Canada and the States, and who recurs to that topic in his letter to-day, was this: "What was not asked, but what was really sought was the recognition of the organization (K. of L. District 45) as an organization to be treated with as such through its representatives on all matters affecting its members, and the 'Bill of Grievances' was simply to be used as a means to this end." Here, then, was an unavowed object, to be accomplished if possible, in an underhand way. Straight-forward means are always likely to be best in the end.

The Amalgamated Association of metal workers in the United States is going a great and a dangerous length when it declares its purpose—through Mr. Shaffer's ultimatum—of controlling the whole metal trades labor market. It proposes to prevent non-union men from working for employers whose unionist employees are on strike. Quite so plain a violation of both law and fair dealing has not been attempted before, and it may be said with truth that the steel combine is to-day fighting the battle for organized industry in the future. The proposal of Shaffer's ultimatum is to use the employer himself as a means of suppressing independent labor. The whole undertaking tends to a state of things in which a labor union shall be able, first to withdraw peremptorily every workman employed in a given trade, and then to prevent the trade from replacing them. "The result would menace in the most formidable way the public safety," as an American Journal puts it. "In the hands of a private committee would be placed the power of stopping at its will, for as long a period as it chose, production and distribution of the necessities of life." Control of such necessities by capital is restrained by law; but the labor union proposes for itself unrestrained control. Must capital be controlled and yet labor do as it pleases? Recognition of the Union was the demand of labor yesterday, what will it be to-morrow.

The sum and substance of the matter is summarized by the New York Post, in its issue of Saturday last, thus: "It is something to get a statement about the steel strike which clears the air of rumors and defines the issue sharply. This is the merit of Mr. Morgan's clear cut announcement yesterday, in behalf of the United States Steel Corporation, that there can be no compromise on the only question in debate with the Amalgamated Association. From the first the employers contended that it was a matter of principle, affecting their honor both as men and masters, not to consent to the forcible 'unionizing' of mills at present non-union. This is now the naked issue, and it will be in vain for President Shaffer to try to cover it up with talk about Wall Street speculation, the tyranny of Trusts, political intrigue, and so on. He has elected to make his fight on an indefensible and outrageous claim, going to the heart of the rights of free labor; and everything else that he may say, or that the newspapers may allege, is wholly beside the main point. That is simply the serious question whether a union tyranny may be set up which will deny to men the right of selling their labor as they will. If that had to be fought out some day even at frightful cost, the battle might as well come now as later."

CANADIAN COMMERCIAL AGENCIES.

The latest blue book to reach us from the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa is the monthly report of the Department containing letters from the Commercial Agencies of the Dominion. One of these is from Mr. James Cumming, at Natal, East Africa, under date 11th May. This states that so congested are all wharves and warehouses at Durban with military stores, being under martial law, that "ordinary commerce has to wait." Merchants are there in thousands awaiting the end of the war. Natal contains about 60,000 whites, 60,000 East Indians, and over 600,000 natives. She is mainly supplied by Australia with cattle, frozen meat, cheese and butter, apples, potatoes, flour and canned goods, in swift steamers with chilled compartments. What is more, the Australians have opened shops to sell these food products. Canadian flour, bacon, and canned goods, Mr. Cumming tells us,