

House, it is possible to present a summary of its more salient features, based upon the text of the bill printed by Australasian Hardware and Machinery, that will probably not be seriously modified unless Imperial sanction is refused to some of them.

Prohibited Goods.—Clause 47 imposes a penalty of £100 on the importing of any prohibited imports. Among the latter are mentioned, in Clause 49, goods manufactured or produced wholly or in part by prison labor all goods having thereon or therewith any false suggestion of any warranty, guarantee or concern in the production or quality thereof, by any public officials, Government or country. An amendment made this clause apply to goods falsely described as warranted by any manufacturer or other firm.

Licensed Warehouses.—By Clause 73, four classes of licensed warehouses are established or permitted. First, general warehouses, to be used for warehousing goods generally; second, private warehouses, to be used only for warehousing goods the property of the licensee; third, machinery warehouses, to be used only for warehousing machinery and similar heavy or bulky goods; the fourth class is for manufacturing.

By Clause 131 goods dutiable under two or more classifications shall pay the highest rate. Substitutes, or articles that are capable of being substituted for dutiable articles, are dutiable at the same rate. Samples are admitted duty free, subject to certain restrictions.

Contracts and Tariff Changes.—The bill provides in Clause 145 that if, after any agreement is made for the sale or delivery of goods duty paid, any alteration takes place in the duties collected affecting such goods, before their entry for home consumption, then, in the absence of expressed written provisions to the contrary, the agreement shall be altered as follows: (a) In the event of the alteration being a new or increased duty, the seller, after payment of the new or increased duty, may add the difference caused by the alteration to the agreed price; (b) In the event of the tariff being altered by the abolition or reduction of duty, the purchaser may deduct the difference caused by the alteration from the agreed price.

Ad Valorem Duties.—In ad valorem duties, by Clause 147, Sub-Clause (a), the value shall be taken to be the fair market value of the goods in the principal markets of the country whence the same were exported, in the usual and ordinary commercial acceptance of the term, and free on board at the port of export of such country, and a further addition of ten per cent. on such market value. This value is to be verified at the time of entry by the production of the genuine invoice, and by a declaration signed by the owner. The genuine invoice, by Clause 148, means the original invoice prepared and issued by the seller, showing the true description of the goods, and the actual money price paid, or to be paid, for the goods, in the country whence they were exported, and without any reduction. In the case of goods consigned for sale in Australia, the invoice is to show the actual money price for cash at which such goods are saleable in the principal markets of the country whence they were exported at the date of the shipment. If the owner refuses to pay the duty as assessed by the collector, or ascertained by experts, the collector may sell the goods. In disputes as to duty, the owner may deposit the amount of duty demanded, and within six months after may commence an action against the collector. Any excess of the deposit over the proper duty will be refunded by the collector with five per cent. added.

Drawback.—No drawback, by Clause 160, will be allowed

on any goods of a less value for home consumption than the amount of the drawback, or on which the import duty paid did not amount to £1.

Fine for Pretense of Smuggling.—A penalty of £100 is imposed on selling or offering for sale any goods upon the pretense that such goods are prohibited imports or smuggled goods.

THE STEEL STRIKE.

Speaking of what might have been expected as the result of the steel strike, Tin and Terne, of Pittsburg, Pa., says:—

Nearly everyone connected with the iron and steel trade, except the workers themselves, felt assured from the beginning that the Amalgamated Association strike would have a disastrous end. Even the men would probably have foreseen the inevitable result if they had not been grossly deceived by the willful misstatements of President Shaffer and some of his associates, willingly aided at the start by some daily newspapers which endeavored to please their constituents. It would be strange to expect a strike to succeed which was for an unjustifiable end and which involved wholesale bad faith and universal breaking of contracts. Nor should the officials have been so brash as to think for a moment that they could forecast the stock market and expect its assistance.

What the Amalgamated Association has lost is not a question of so many mills or so many members. Its loss of prestige is greater than these. It no longer holds the balance of power in any branch of the United States Steel Corporation, and it will not be able to enforce the many unreasonable demands which it has until now successfully made upon manufacturers.

Speaking broadly for the future, however, the organized workmen have lost much more than appears on the surface. They have permitted the training of many men into skilled positions who would, under former conditions, have been unable to acquire that skill without going through a long apprenticeship. The work of years in holding down the number of men permitted to hold skilled jobs, by requiring them to go through a long course of preparation in minor jobs, has been undone in the course of a few weeks. In times of activity like the present, especially with the decreased production of the past two months, which must be largely made up, this will not be felt, but the time will come some day when it will be felt.

The most important effect of the strike, however, is one which will not necessarily adversely affect the men, while, in the long run, it may prove to be a boon to skilled labor. We refer to the breaking up of the organization to such an extent that the dictum can no longer be arbitrarily maintained that the present method of rolling tin plates and sheets is the only possible method. There is no question in the minds of advanced managers and engineers that the present method is entirely too laborious and expensive. The close organization of the Amalgamated Association has been the main obstacle in the line of making experimental departures and trying entirely new methods. The way is now open for such work, and there is every reason to believe it will not be many years before sheets and tin plate are rolled in a much more rational manner and with a great reduction in the manual labor and expense involved.

If we look over the list of iron and steel products exported from the United States, we find a pretty close harmony indicated between the quantity of such exports in a given line, and the extent of the departure we have made in the manufacture of those lines from old time practice. We export less sheets and tin plates than we do of any important line, and we have made less progress in the rolling of sheets in the past twenty years than we have in any other line. We are practically following British methods and paying two and a half or three times as much per ton for the same work. In the lines we export, we pay much higher wages per day, but on account of labor saving machinery and increased output, the tonnage rate is actually less. The same will be done with tin plates and sheets in a few years.