

improbable that the mine owners may welcome a temporary cessation of work in the mines, with a view of forcing up the price of coal. The workmen, who begin the strike without any fund on which to subsist, must soon submit to almost any terms which their employers may dictate. The outlook is for them indeed black. This squeezing of the workmen in coal mines is a thing which Canada, for her part, should try to make impossible. It is not to be done by monopoly basking under shelter of the tariff, for not in coal, any more than in anything else, do high prices afford any guarantee of fair wages.

A set attempt is being made in Toronto to strike down the local improvement system, which has been in operation for many years. Defective it is and capable of improvement, no doubt, but its fundamental principle is unassailable. Before farm land can be admitted to the privilege of being transformed into city lots, certain conditions precedent may reasonably be insisted on. Drainage, roads and water supply are the chief requisites, and the cost of these may reasonably be thrown upon the owners of the land, who are to benefit by the change. Up to this point the local improvement system works with tolerable fairness; though it may be that limitations of taxation in other directions should result from these special obligations. When the city was increasing in population at the rate of 10,000 a year, people concluded that this was a normal rate of progress and would last for ever. This miscalculation caused many errors in expenditure which have to be atoned for. But this is no reason why the local improvement system should be got rid of with a hurrah! and without a distinct understanding of what is to follow. A partial change is necessary, not a complete revolution. Many property owners are suffering, but this is due largely to their own mistakes; and they are not in a worse case than many property-owners in large American cities have occasionally found themselves.

A rumor comes, not from London, but from Manchester, that the colonial premiers have agreed with Mr. Chamberlain that the colonies ought to have representation in the House of Lords. An individual colonist might be appointed to the House of Peers, but it would be a misnomer to call him a representative in that chamber of the colony from which he came. This plan, if carried out systematically, would somewhat resemble what takes place in Germany; but there it is the sovereigns, not the people of the German States, who are represented in the Upper Chamber. If the colonial appointments to the House of Lords were not systematic, but sporadic, the representative character of the appointments would be still more shadowy. The plan, if there be a plan, seems more like offering a bait for ambition than anything that can properly be called colonial representation. There is, perhaps, no reason why a colonist should not look to the honors of a Lyndhurst, who was a colonist born; but if this be desirable, it cannot be desirable on account of its representative character, but solely as a recognition of colonial merit when that quality reaches a certain height. The more flexible these things are the better.

As it leaves the Senate, the Dingley tariff bill contains the item of white pine at the reduced rate of \$1 per 1,000 feet. Should the conference committee agree to leave it at this figure, Canada might reasonably forego its right to put an export duty on logs. And this on the principle of give and take, where no formal reciprocity is on the carpet.

Reciprocal benefits should always be welcome; reciprocal injuries should be avoided whenever it is possible.

#### ADVERTISING A COUNTRY.

The changes that have come over the tea-drinking world of Europe and America in a generation are marked. China teas were the teas when some of us were juvenile clerks in country stores. But Japan teas came in and undersold them largely. To-day we discover that both Japan and China teas find a strong competitor in the India and Ceylon article. So much so that the Japanese Government is said to have appropriated \$750,000 to be used in America for advertising their teas. This is deemed necessary because of the successful efforts of the Ceylon and Indian Government representatives in getting their teas before the public in Canada and the United States, and thereby largely displacing those of Japan.

There is a lesson here for Canada. We do not grow tea, nor export it; but we do grow or produce other things for which we wish to establish a market abroad. If the Japanese can afford to spend money at the rate indicated above in order to market one of their principal products, may Canada not do well to make liberal appropriations for a like purpose? The word "advertising" used in this connection does not mean, at least need not mean, printed advertisements, merely, but the payment of agents, trade commissioners, lecturers, experimental shipments, or what means soever will achieve the object—the popularizing of Japan teas. Nation in competing with nation in other markets than their own find it necessary to spend money. The Canadian nation cannot expect to succeed as a competitor—so the Australian correspondent of *The Monetary Times* has told our readers again and again—by merely sending circulars or catalogues to foreign lands. We must spend some money, but let it be spent intelligently, whether public or private money.

#### OUR WOOLEN INTERESTS.

The woolen factories of Canada are of little more than sixty years' growth. In the year 1837 two mills—one at Georgetown, Upper Canada, and the other at Chambly, Lower Canada—were fitted out with the machinery necessary to carry the manufacture of woollens from the first to the last stage of the process. Previously there had existed numerous custom mills throughout Eastern Canada, but they were merely adjuncts of the domestic system, assisting the housewife in the work of cloth-making. The beginning of the factory system in the Canadian woolen industry dates from the accession of Queen Victoria, and has been developed during her reign. There is at the present time, according to the estimate made by a reliable authority, fully \$15,000,000 invested in the woolen goods industry of the Dominion. This vast sum of money does not represent the accumulations of a few corporations, as in the cotton industry, but is distributed among almost 800 mill-owners, whose interests extend over the five provinces of Eastern Canada.

But in spite of the marvellous growth of the Canadian woolen goods industry, the manufacturers engaged in it are not prosperous. The number of failures that has taken place recently in this branch of textile manufacture indicates extreme depression. A number of