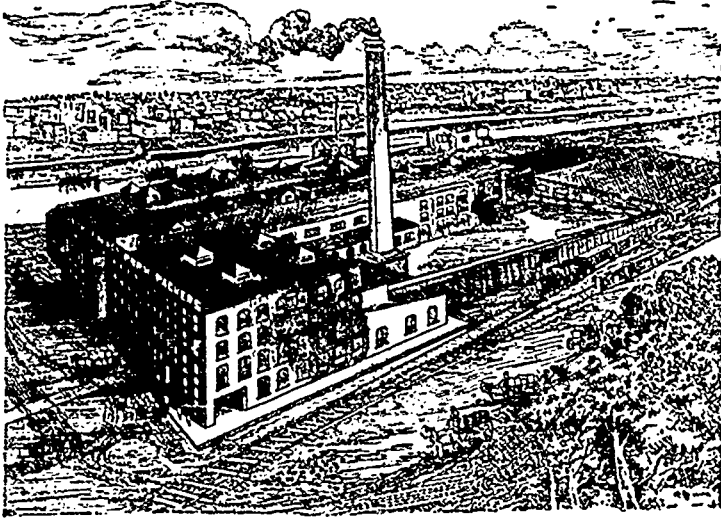


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Preserving season will open next week when everything will be at bed rock.

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American Competition with Britain.

The London correspondent of the New York Evening Post writes to that Journal:

The overpowering vote of the British House of Commons the other day—330 to 16—against the admission into the British fiscal system of the preferential-tariff principle as applied to the colonies, has proved a severe blow to what one may call the imperial protectionists. Relying upon Mr. Chamberlain's repeated coquetting with the idea of an inter-imperial tariff of some sort against the foreigner, they hoped that the British government might be induced to admit the thin end of the wedge in connection with their new sugar duty proposals. The reply of the House of Commons is decisive. But the imperial protectionist is not quite dead for all that, and in the columns of the Commercial Intelligencer one finds a fiscal duel in progress, with Mr. Harold Cox, secretary of the Cobden club, as one of the duellists. The Cobden club is still so much the bulwark of free trade, and this trade journal is so unlikely to cross the Atlantic, that I append a few paragraphs from the last letter of this modern exponent of Cobdenism. They have a special bearing upon American trade rivalry with England: "As far as I am able to judge," says the Cobden club secretary, "most of the modern criticism of free trade is due to the irritation caused by foreign tariffs. We are conscious of the injury done to our trade by the American tariff, and some of us are foolish enough to spring to the conclusion that we could avoid that injury by means of a British tariff. We should only injure ourselves still further. England, more than most countries, is dependent for her prosperity on her foreign trade. In order to command neutral markets we must be able to produce at the lowest possible cost, and therefore it is imperative that the raw materials and the tools of our multifarious industries and the food and clothing of our people should be free from taxation.

"As for the future, it depends on ourselves. Mr. Williams makes a great point of the alleged loss of our industrial supremacy owing to the more rapid progress of the United States. I do not know whether the actual supremacy has yet passed from us; but I do know that 40,000,000 people, cramped up in an overcrowded island, cannot reasonably expect to retain forever the industrial leadership of the world against 70,000,000 people, not inferior in intelligence, and occupying a territory of almost boundless extent and natural richness. Nor is the industrial future that lies before the American people any new discovery. Fifty years ago English free-traders clearly foresaw the inevitable expansion of the United States, and wisely pointed out the futility of hampering our industries in the vain hope of staying their progress. The only marvel is that this great continent has not sooner wrested from our little island the title of supremacy. The loss of that title, when it comes, may hurt our vanity, but it will not touch our solid prosperity. In the long run our national prosperity depends on our individual qualities. If we are prompt to seize fresh opportunities, quick to adapt our old ideas to new needs, steadfast in work, and resourceful in difficulties, we shall not go under even before the millions of the American republic. With his own brain and hand, each individual citizen must carve out his own fortune, and the greatest boon he can ask of the state is to leave him free."

British Columbia Year Book.

In 1897 R. E. Gosnell, of Victoria, B. C., issued "The Year Book of British Columbia," which was filled with useful and valuable information regarding the resources of that province. He has now issued a compendium of this work containing extracts of such information as is most likely to interest those outside rather than those within the province. To this compendium is added a chapter containing much special information respecting the Canadian Yukon. Reliable information as to the resources of British Columbia has been very hard to get in a condensed form and this book of 215 pages is sure to meet with great favor as it contains very full information in a clear and concise form.