

they will never be put to use as long as the proprietors can make merchant iron of scrap that cost them only \$8 per ton.

The solution of this question is in a radical change in the tariff on all scrap iron. If the duty were made practically prohibitory we would soon have a blast furnace industry. The duty on bar iron might remain as it is, but if foreign scrap were kept out of the country entirely the price of bar iron could not be any higher than it is now. If scrap iron were kept out of the country there would immediately arise a demand for pig iron for puddling purposes, and that means that the proposed Hamilton furnace would be kept in blast and other furnaces would be built. It means that having only a few furnaces in Quebec, as is now the case, not only the number but the capacity of them would be increased. It means that the capacity of the Nova Scotia works would also be increased, and that we would make our own pig iron and bar iron also.

The duty on scrap iron should be made prohibitory.

FAIRS.

EVER since Mr. H. J. Hill became manager of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition it has been claimed by many that that gentleman was the moving spirit of the greatest and most important Fair held in either Canada or the United States; the only rival of approximate importance being the Fair held at St. Louis, Mo. That is a much older concern, the thirty-third annual event having just closed. One of the largest and most important attractions of the St. Louis Fair for a number of years has been the displays of agricultural machinery and farm implements, the manufacturers of them vieing with each other in the comprehensiveness of their exhibits, many of them having built large, beautiful and expensive pavilions upon the Fair grounds in which to show their goods and entertain their friends. As at the Toronto grounds, a suitable lawn is appropriated for the use of such machinery as required it—traction engines, etc. The St. Louis Fair grounds are farther away from the centre of the city than what our Fair grounds are from the centre of Toronto, and more difficult of access. But the Fair held there has always proved a success. The most important permanent affair of the sort in the country—perhaps it would be quite safe to say the only one—within a city three times the size of Toronto, and in the heart and centre of a large and productive agricultural section, and with the most excellent management, it would have been surprising if the Fair had not proved to be eminently successful. Although the Fair is held for only one week in the year, there are many permanent attractions on the grounds, including a zoological collection. The race course is one of the finest in the country, faced by an elegant grand stand and club house; and the cattle pens, stables, etc., are of large capacity, constructed in the most modern style. There are fine and commodious buildings about the grounds sufficient to accommodate all who may wish to exhibit.

Some years ago the manufacturers, other than those of agricultural implements, vehicles, etc., who had patronized the St. Louis Fair, discovered that the expense of showing their products there, where the public were admitted on but five days, was too great for any advantages that might be derived from the event; and this feeling led to the erection of a very large

Exposition building in the very heart of the city where such manufactured products might be shown to better advantage, the season to extend over a period of forty days. This building covers two city blocks, and was first opened to the public ten years ago. There is a large plant in an adjoining block where steam power is generated sufficient to drive all the machinery in the Exposition building requiring it, the steam being conveyed under the separating street; the managers supplying every possible facility to the exhibiting manufacturers. During the continuance of the Exposition the doors are kept open both day and evening, and every inducement offered the public to enter.

Notwithstanding the withdrawal of this important element from the St. Louis Fair, it continued to thrive and maintain its importance until the present year; but now we learn that the lustre of it is considerably dimmed because of the non-appearance of a very large number of the agricultural implement exhibitors who have heretofore patronized it. This is a matter of general regret; and the circumstance may be attributed partially to the prevailing hard times in that country, and partly to the fact that many of the absent exhibitors have their products on view at the World's Fair at Chicago. It may be that this condition will not prevail next year; but it is certain that as liberal as the management of the St. Louis Fair have been to exhibitors, there were not sufficient inducements offered for them to appear there this year.

On the other hand the St. Louis Exposition building was erected with special reference to the display of machines and machinery, and ample inducements are always offered to manufacturers to make displays of their products. The ground floor is constructed with special reference to the heavy machinery it has to accommodate, while the upper floors are quite sufficient to bear any lighter machinery. In many instances it is stipulated that the machinery must be in motion at certain hours, and such things as type-making machines, printing presses, lithographic presses, shoe-making machines, steam pumps, brick machines, iron and wood-working machinery, looms for weaving all sorts of fabrics, from fine laces and embroidery to heavy tweeds, and a hundred other machines may all be seen in full operation.

These facts may be regarded as suggestions to the management of the Toronto Industrial Exposition. They have now established most excellent accommodations for horses, cattle and all sorts of stock. They have now one of the largest and most comfortable grand stands on the continent, facing a race track just to the liking of Mr. Christie, the vice-president, who so dearly loves a horse race. There is a fine and commodious building for the special accommodation of the exhibitors of musical instruments, and the Horticultural Building, the Apiary Building, and the building for the display of vegetables and farm products seem to be quite as commodious as the necessity requires. But none of the buildings used for the displays of the products of manufacturers are what they should be, and Machinery Hall is entirely too small, too badly arranged, too deficient in steam power and in facilities for anchoring heavy machinery, to meet the requirements of the manufacturers who use it. If Machinery Hall were four times as large as it now is, or even much larger, all the space could be used to advantage, making it infinitely more satisfactory to exhibitors and interesting to visitors. With sufficient and well-arranged accommodation, a hundred different sorts of machi-