

would be an increased supply. If the outlying parts of Ontario were converted into a vast field of grain and all capitalists and handlers were centred in the cities, things would in this modern day be in such pretty shape for the operation of combines and the practice of oppression that history could offer nothing to compare with the conditions that would ensue.

At present, between the granary of the farmer and the vast storehouse of the millionaire, there stand a dozen shrewd men bidding against each other, interested in keeping corn moving in Egypt, and checkmating the mammoth purchasers who would corner grain and starve the world into paying extortionate prices for food. At one time in France, when means of transport were crude, manipulators bought up the staple food supply of the realm, and allowed 75 per cent. of it to rot so that during the ensuing famine they could secure fabulous prices for the preserved 25 per cent. In these days, when fortunes are so vast and when time and space are annihilated by swift steamers and marine cables, the inextricable complication of the commercial fabric is the only thing that prevents a few men from getting the whole earth under their thumbs. The simplifying projects of the Patrons if successful to the fullest extreme (as they can never be, however), would restore the social situation of the Middle Ages when all men were clear-cut into two classes—serfs and masters. The tiller of the soil would subscribe to no oath of fealty to the millionaire in his city office, but after the whole country outside the cities had been converted into one vast farm the social grades would disappear with the commercial grades, and the great dealers of the city would demand and secure the products of the farm at whatever price they cared to give. The natural trend of events is towards government by finance rather than by family. Hereditary rule is weakening. Patriotism was once the life-principle of politics, and trade had to accommodate itself to such conditions as the jealous observance of the national honor might impose. Nowadays patriotism and national honor must reconcile themselves to the requirements of trade. There must come a day when a metropolitan board of trade will rule a nation more intimately and surely than will its parliament and senate. And this governing body will not be composed of men elected by the votes of the people, but of men who shall mount up by the propelling force of dollars and are made great by their commercial acumen. To simplify the commercial tangle, as the Patrons purpose doing, would bring that day at once upon us, and we should have a nobility of moneyed barons, lords and masters more potent, tyrannical and unfeeling than their hereditary fore-runners.

When we discuss the Patrons and their commercial objects it does not do to lightly ridicule what they propose doing. Suppose that they should produce in their midst a Wiman or a Van Horne, with a genius for organization, could not such a man perfect the scheme to a degree at all events sufficient to stagger for ten years the local trade of every town in the country and to make a lasting effect upon the domestic commerce of the continent?

It is said by some that the Patrons have abandoned their commercial purposes and but seek to bring about certain legislative reforms. Don't you believe it. There are shrewd men in the order who started out in the belief that the failure of the Grange movement was due to its utter insignificance in politics, to its lack of weight with Parliament, and its consequent want of glitter and prestige in the eyes of farmers. These

faults, which doomed the Grange movement, have been remedied in the Patron movement with a success that its promoters could scarcely have hoped for. The Patrons can almost balance parties and dictate terms before one item of business is undertaken in the Ontario Legislature. But this is not the end the Patrons have in view—it is only the means to an end. It imparts consequence to the organization and enables it to enroll hosts of members every night throughout the land.

SILKS AND VELVETS.

THE following extract from the Draper's Record, of July 7, 1894, is interesting: "Lister & Co. have just brought out cheaper and lower qualities of their patent mohair velvets, which are to be known in the future as 'Lisango.' They are especially suitable for the upholstering of steamship saloons and seats of tram cars or railway coaches, in fact they are admirably adapted for any situation in which hard wear is expected. Another novelty brought out by this firm is a light-weight silk dress plush, especially designed for children's wear, and which, from its rich appearance, can scarcely fail to meet with a large demand."

Myra's Journal, of July 1st, 1894, says: "The English silk manufacturers have had some reason to rejoice over the result of the silk exhibition at Stafford House, for not only was it once more proved that England can be first in the field in this line if she likes, but the exhibition led to large orders being given for many of the beautiful silks shown. Amongst the most admired fabrics were the specimens of Lister's tussah silks, which I recommend as beautiful materials for summer dresses two months since. H. M. the Queen and H. R. H. the Princess of Wales, have endorsed my opinion of these tussah silks by purchasing several pieces of them from Debenham & Freebody, and the Queen has also ordered from Liberty's a dress length of beautiful brocade, a length of white watered silk crepe, and some pink silk crepe woven with silk stripes. The black satins shown by another firm of manufacturers were also duly appreciated, and indeed it would be difficult to meet with anything finer than these, and some specimens of brocade shown were equally beautiful."

Life, of May 19th, says: "The Princess of Wales during her visit to the silk exhibit paid a unique compliment to the fabrics of Lister & Co. At her request the case in which these were exhibited was opened, and the silks taken out for Her Royal Highness to examine. The 'Lisarcine' (Silk Rainproof Seal) and the tussahs and broche silks met with the largest share of admiration from the Royal visitor."

WHAT BRITISH COLUMBIA CLAIMS.

At the annual meeting of the Victoria, B.C., Board of Trade an exhaustive report was presented. It showed that according to the population of British Columbia, it was the largest manufacturing province in the Dominion, the number of employees having increased 300 per cent. during the year. Trade continued healthy, but not so great as during the previous two years. The Dominion Insolvency Act was approved. The following officers were elected: President, A. C. Flummerfelt; Vice-President, C. E. Renouf; Secretary, F. Elworthy; Council, D. R. Kerr, G. Leiser, W. H. Ellis, L. C. Fletcher, H. Bostock, A. B. Gray, H. E. Cannon, and H. Croft, with a large Arbitration Committee.