

would pay for it. Mr. Caldwell can find all the market for his ores he wants if he wants to find it.

MR. C. W. VINCENT, who recently arrived in Ottawa from England, has had an interview with the Minister of Agriculture relative to the growing of flax in Canada. This is a matter to which Mr. Carling has given considerable attention of late, and he was deeply interested in the scheme laid before him. The plan proposed is that certain working centres shall be established by the English company which Mr. Vincent represents, at which the fibre will be received from the farmers. The latter is to be prepared from the straw during the winter season, and at a time when the farmer's labor is not now profitably employed. The scheme is of public importance in view of the facts which Mr. Carling has recently pointed out. At present Canada sends neither flax seed nor fibre across the Atlantic, although Great Britain annually imports 20,000,000 bushels of one and 180,000,000 pounds of the other. In many parts of Canada flax may be grown profitably, and with so large a market open in Great Britain it would be of general advantage if the Dominion could produce a fair share. In this relation it may be said that experiments with flax are this year being made at all the experimental farms, and useful information is expected therefrom.

We are surprised to observe that the Royal Commission on the Mineral Resources of Canada has, through its secretary, already been driven to defend its report from attack. More surprising still is it that falsehood should be the weapon chosen for this defence. The particular charge against the report is that it advocates Reciprocity with the United States rather than the retention and strengthening of the present system of Protection in that country. To even the casual reader of the report this position was apparent. In our review of the report, at the time of its first appearance, we specially called attention to this surprising and impracticable feature—surprising because at variance with the policy of the present Canadian Government; impracticable because the people of the United States do not want any such arrangement. Some of the Canadian papers took up the charge, and the secretary of the Commission has seen fit to rush into print in sweeping denial. The words of the report itself are a sufficient answer, and the CANADIAN MANUFACTURER does well to quote the exact language capable of such interpretation. We might quote still stronger passages, but the evidence is sufficient. The able secretary of the Commission should read his own report.—*Cleveland, O., Iron Trade Review.*

We recently stated that the authorities of the City of Toronto had requested the Dominion Government to place refined asphalt, used for street paving, upon the free list. The Minister of Customs very properly refused to do this; but he called attention to the fact that the crude article is admitted free; and now it is urged that the refined asphalt spoken of is not refined at all, but a crude article upon which no duty should be levied. This effort to deceive the Government is not honest. The crude asphalt of commerce is found chiefly in the Island of Trinidad, W.I., and it has to undergo considerable preparation—a process of manufacture before it is suitable for street paving purposes. That which is now being

used in Toronto is imported from the United States, where the preparation of it gives employment to large capital and much labor. The industry of paving the streets of Toronto and other Canadian cities with asphalt is now in its infancy, but the excellence of such roads guarantees that the use of the article will become wide spread and general; and there is no reason why the capital and labor necessary in the preparation of it should not be invested and expended in Canada. Those who desire the Dominion Government to place refined asphalt upon the free list are not exhibiting much interest in affording employment for Canadian workmen.

THE advantage of Protection to the growers of coarse wools and to the carpet manufacturing industry is pointed out by an American contemporary, which tells us that thirty years ago, just before the present policy of Protection was adopted, there were but few carpet factories there, although Americans used more carpets than any other people in the world, nearly all of their supplies being imported. The journal alluded to says:—

"Only about 13,000,000 yards were made at home. The business called for only 8,000,000 pounds of wool, and the wages paid were only \$500,000. In 1870 there were 215 factories, consuming 33,000,000 pounds of wool, employing 13,000 hands, paying out \$4,681,000 in wages a year, and turning out 22,000,000 yards of carpet. Since then these figures have increased to 11,500 looms, 43,000 hands, 90,000,000 pounds of wool and 77,000,000 yards of carpet. And while this enormous enlargement of the business has been going on, it has been attended by a reduction in the prices of carpeting. In 1872 body Brussels sold for \$2 a yard; in 1880 it had fallen to \$1.50, and in 1890 it is only 93 cents a yard. In the same time tapestry Brussels carpet has been reduced in price from \$1.46 per yard to 65 cents a yard for the best quality, and ingrain from \$1.20 to 45 cents. The competition between our home manufacturers of carpets has been very sharp, and it has led to inventions and improvements that have done much to assist the cheapening of prices and increase the consumption of carpets, and one result is that hundreds of thousands of humble homes can afford to have their once bare floors covered with these adjuncts of comfort."

THE McKinley Bill is getting hot shot from unexpected quarters. Here is one from Mr. Barker, Superintendent of the Norristown carpet mills, and hitherto an ardent Republican:—"I think that every man that has the welfare of the country at heart will vote against the Republican party at the forthcoming election on account of the McKinley Tariff or Tax Bill, under the terms of which the rich can go to Europe and buy their clothes, while the poor and middle classes must wear the shoddy made from noils and hair, because the manufacturer will not pay the price for the wool. Our carpets will be made of cotton, noils and hair for the same reasons. Where will it end? Domestic goods will be viewed with contempt, and persons with means will purchase the foreign article. The manufacturing industries of the country are suffering on account of the poor demand for goods; to increase the cost will be fatal to many. I shall do all I can, and shall vote the Democratic ticket."—*Toronto Globe.*

Mr. Barker, Superintendent of the Norristown Carpet Mills, is a kicker. He is of that class who can't see beyond the end of his nose. Engaged in the manufacture of an article in which only coarse wools, noils, shoddy, etc., are used, he wants these articles placed on the free list. He is a Protectionist for Barker only. He is willing that fine wools be taxed, and the American wool grower be protected in that direction, for Mr. Barker is not a consumer of fine wools. But coarse wools—