

some central place, usually in a private stable. This wagon stands ready for use at all times. Arrangements are made for securing a horse for it at short notice. In this wagon are hand-pumps, pails, poles for elevating hose, a variety of noozles, ladders, axes and other fire tools, rubber blankets for covering goods, barrels or milk cans filled with water. Rain and water casks are kept full by private citizens for the use of the associations. To insure attendance at fires, prizes are given to those who first discover a fire and those who help to put it out. These prizes are given to any one, young or old, whether members of the association or not. For the person giving the first five calls of fire for a burning building 25 cents. For the first stream one dollar and a half. For the next four one dollar each. First pump with 25 feet of hose, 25 cents; first 15-foot ladder 25 cents; for the first 15-foot pole or other fire tools, 25 cents each; for the first response with pump or bucket of water without using it, 50 cents each, and also to the next five persons bringing either pump or bucket, an equal sum. Owners, tenants or employees are excluded from prizes as it is supposed their own interest is a sufficient incentive to exertion.

It is evident that the above appliances, though very effective at the commencement of a fire, are of little use in case of a conflagration. They are only intended to be used at the beginning of a fire and for preventing large fires. We think that some of our country villages should adopt this system, which no doubt would prove as useful here as it has in New England towns and villages. The pumps referred to can be purchased from three to four dollars each and are very effective. The addition of Fire-King Extinguishers would be of great assistance at the incipient stage of fires. The great element of success in coping with a fire is to be on hand early.—*The Monetary Times.*

The Disadvantages of American Wool Manufacturers.

The reply of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers to Secretary Manning's tariff circular of July 18 is just out in a pamphlet of 55 pages. It declares emphatically against any renewal of tariff agitation at present. Nevertheless, in view of the fact that the question is bound to come up again, several changes in duty are proposed for adoption in case of another revision. It is worthy of note that these recommendations, where any change whatever is suggested, are all in favor of higher taxes on imports. It is demanded, for example, that the specific duty on woolen or worsted cloths, woolen and worsted shawls, &c., under section 362, T. I. New, be raised from 35 cents to 45 cents per pound. An increase of the specific duties mentioned in section 363, on flannels, blankets, hosiery, &c., is also called for, on the ground that the reductions made in 1883 disturbed the "symmetry" of the woolen duties and were "arbitrary" and unwarranted.

But by far the most important part of this document is its explanation of the disadvantages under which American manufacturers labor by reason of the duties on imported wool. No more striking elucidation of this phase of the question has ever been published. It is

asserted over and over again in this authoritative statement that the wool manufacturing industry is subjected to disadvantages from which our foreign competitors are wholly exempt, and to which no other branch of domestic industry is subjected to any material extent. Not only is the cost of raw material enhanced by the taxes, but their effect is also to enforce stringent limitations on American manufacturers in choosing sources of supply for their various wants. The declaration discusses the duties on wool as follows:

"The European manufacturer possesses the advantage, which would be overwhelming if not contracted by special legislation, of having the raw material of his manufacture free from duty—no duties on wool existing in Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and very slight duties, if any, in other manufacturing nations. Our European competitors are exempt from the direct enhancement, by a duty, of the cost of wool, thus requiring less capital to supply their mills, and no cost of interest on the duty required in carrying their stocks of wool and goods. They are free from the apprehension of changes in the value of wool such as have taken place in this country, in consequence of no less than seventeen changes in the tariff on wools within the memory of living manufacturers. They are exempt from the duties on wool substitutes, so usefully employed to mix with wool in the manufacture of the cheaper and heavier cloths—duties which with us are absolutely prohibitory. They are able, from the lower cost of their raw material, to relieve themselves from overproduction by consigning their surplus stocks at comparatively slight sacrifice to foreign markets to which their cheapness has already introduced them. They are not compelled, as we are, to discriminate in their choice of wool to avoid the effect of the duty, and are able to select their wools in any condition, whether unwashed, washed or scoured, with reference only to their desirable qualities. Through freedom of importation they have near markets, as at London, Havre, Antwerp and Berlin, offering vast assortments and a steady supply of all kinds of wool—advantages especially favorable to the small manufacturer. The high duty is not the only difficulty with which our manufacturers requiring foreign goods have to contend. It is held that complete protection to the most important branch of our wool-growing industry, the Merino sheep husbandry, requires that washed wools in Class I. should be subject to double the duty of unwashed wool, and the duty on scoured wool should be three times the amount upon the unwashed wool—an arrangement which compels the importations of Class I wools to be in the greasy state, necessitating the transportation charges on from two and a quarter to three pounds of grease and dirt in the wool required for a pound of cloth. The effect of the compulsion to buy greasy wools and pay a heavy specific duty on their impurities is that the American manufacturer is thereby obliged to give undue preference to light condition over fineness and the other valuable qualities of the wools offering in foreign markets. To these considerations it should be added that the high specific duty on clothing

wool's, a duty irrespective of the cost, particularly excludes the cheap and abundant clothing wools of South America, and, by freezing them from our competition for their purchase, makes them much cheaper than they would otherwise be to the manufacturers of France, Belgium and Germany."—*Journal of Fabrics.*

Reciprocity Prospects.

The day draws near when President Cleveland's message will be delivered to Congress; and it is expected to contain a recommendation that a commission be appointed, to meet one from our side, in order to make some permanent arrangement with regard to the fisheries. That the long-standing fishery dispute will be settled in some way or other there is every reason to believe. On both sides there will be free trade in fish, and our fisheries will be made free to the Americans—this much may be considered almost a certainty. Whether reciprocity will go further than this, is, however, a conjecture. Still it may not be out of place to try to foreshow the probabilities, as far as present indications may reasonably lead us to infer.

It will be remembered that about two years ago a small but very influential deputation, representing the coal and iron interests of Pennsylvania and Ohio, came to Ottawa and had interviews with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Customs. They said that what they particularly wanted was to get coal and iron ore put upon the free list, on both sides; any they intimated that such an arrangement was very likely to be approved of at Washington. Sir Leonard replied by pointing out to them Section 6 of the N. P. Act of 1879, which authorizes the Governor-in-Council to make free a pretty long list of natural products, whenever the same shall have been made free by American legislation. This section further declared that "any or all" of the articles might be made reciprocally free, so that reciprocity might take in one or a few articles only, if not agreed upon for the whole list. Sir Leonard Tilley suggested that salt and lumber would be desirable additions. The gentlemen from the other side intimated that they were not authorized to go further than coal or iron ore in any proposals they might make. To this Sir Leonard replied again that they might consider the Canadian Government prepared at any time to reciprocate in these articles only, or whatever other articles they might choose to add. The deputation left perfectly satisfied that if reciprocity hung fire it was not from any fault on the Canadian side.

Since then nothing has been given to the public to show positively that any action has been taken on the other side in the way of following up the proposal made by the deputation referred to. But there are reasons for believing that the American interests then and there represented have not been idle in the meantime, and that the ensuing session will find Congress prepared to do something. The probability, we take it, is that an agreement will be made for reciprocity in fish, coal and iron ore at all events, and very possibly in salt and lumber too. It is said that, just of late,