

national legislation against the combination of producers to maintain prices. There is not power anywhere, that we know of that can restrain two woolen mills, or ten woolen mills, from putting themselves under a single ownership and direction and being operated as one concern. Nor is there power enough to restrain manufacturers from fixing for their wares what prices please them and refusing to sell for less. Such combinations may be assailed by removing the tariff duties from their products, or they may be attacked when they resort to unfair means to injure their rivals; but the union of several ownerships into one ownership must be beyond reach of prohibition unless the right of a man to use and dispose of his own property is to be denied. Admitting as we do, that in some instances the creation by such means of vast monopolies is hurtful to the people, the assertion may be made with confidence, first, that in very few cases can combinations of this kind have anything resembling a monopoly; and, second, that the operation of combinations of manufacturers will be, in the long run, to give the people commodities at lower cost.

FAR OFF FIELDS LOOK GREEN.

It is interesting to notice the efforts being put forth by our American friends to capture trade from the States of the American continent lying to the south of them, as shown in their efforts to boom the Pan-American Exposition to be held next year at Buffalo, and how little effort they make to cultivate the trade of the only other country on the continent—Canada. According to an official publication recently issued by the United States Treasury Department of the entire export trade of that country during the fiscal year ending with June 30, 1899, 11.49 per cent. was with all the countries on the American continent, including Canada, whose proportion was 57.6 per cent. of the whole, all these other countries receiving but 42.4 per cent.

The distribution was as follows:—

Canada.....	7.30 per cent.
Mexico.....	2.08 " "
Argentina.....	.78 " "
Central American States.....	.40 " "
Venezuela.....	.23 " "
Columbia.....	.25 " "
Chile.....	.17 " "
Peru.....	.11 " "
Uruguay.....	.10 " "
Ecuador.....	.07 " "

Total 11.49 " "

In other words, of every \$11.49 worth of merchandise the United States exports to all other countries on the North, Central and South American continents, \$7.30 is taken by Canada against \$4.19 by all the other countries.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Engineering and Mining Journal of June 9 published the full tables of mineral and metal production of the United States in 1899 as prepared for the "Mineral Industry," Volume VIII. The total value of this output as estimated at the mines or places of production was \$1,211,361,861—an amount unexampled in the history of the United States or of any other country. This total, however, necessarily includes certain duplications, which amounted to \$92,581,031, making the total net value of mineral production \$1,118,780,830. This compares with a corresponding value of \$799,518,033 in 1898, showing an increase in 1899 of

\$319,262,797, or 39.9 per cent. This enormous increase was in part due to an increase in quantities, and in part to the great advance in values of iron, steel, copper, and other metals. The United States last year was the greatest producer of coal, salt, iron, copper, silver and lead in the world, and was also a leader in the production of many of the less important metals. The value of its mineral production now far exceeds that of any other country. Of the total in 1899, crude ores and minerals contributed \$580,836,032; metals reduced from domestic ores, \$496,057,320; secondary products—such as alum, white lead, soda, etc.—\$63,996,969; while the value of metals smelted or refined from foreign material was \$70,171,540. The extent of the production is shown by the figures which include 252,115,337 short tons of coal, 13,400,735 long tons of pig iron, 581,319,091 pounds of copper, 217,085 tons of lead, 129,675 tons of zinc, 57,126,834 ounces of silver, and \$70,096,021 in gold. The most important single item of production was coal, which furnished 25.4 per cent. of the total value. Iron was second, forming 20.9 per cent., copper third, with 8.3 per cent.

An alleviation of some of the hardships which shippers have been experiencing at the hands of the railways is expected in the near future. It is stated that the officials of the roads are at present earnestly reviewing the freight rate difficulty with a view to revising the regulations, and prominent merchants express themselves as satisfied that the question will receive a fair consideration. Who will get the credit of having finally influenced the railways to move seems likely to cause some jealousy. The Manufacturers' Association claim a large share of the honor, and the Board of Trade claims that it did the deed. On the one hand the Board of Trade is accused of having wasted years in indolence, but members of that body say that it is not, nor never has been, the custom of their organization to make a fuss over the results they attain. They allege, too, that the Manufacturers' Association have bungled every move they have made in the freight rate matter. They made an appointment to meet the Minister of Railways and railway delegates and then failed to send a representative, much to the disgust of the Minister.—Toronto Evening Star.

Our new contemporary Farm Machinery, of Sarnia, Ont., very plaintively enquires "What do Threshermen in Canada Need," and tells them as follows:—

What do Canadian threshermen need? This is a question asked recently by one of them. We answered that they need organization. They need organization, not for the purpose of antagonizing their farmer patrons, but for the reason that they are wholly to blame for the present unprofitable condition of the threshing business. They need organization for social as well as business reasons, and because with organization comes co operation and profit in the place of blind competition and yearly loss. They need organization to enable them to plan the economies that come of a better understanding of their requirements, and they need organization to show them the value of associated interests as against warring interests.

We would also make a suggestion. All Canadian manufacturers of farm machinery appreciate the importance of exhibiting their goods at the annual fairs, particularly at the Great and only Toronto Industrial. To do this to the best advantage they should without delay perfect their organi-