

and has placed what were once luxuries within the reach of all sober and industrious labor.

This is a strong argument in favor of protection, as applied to Canadian manufacturing industries. Where free trade has heretofore found its strongest foothold, the population was dense, and the hours of labor, in the struggle for life, long and arduous. It is so now in most countries, and it is against the competition of this cheap labor that protection raises a barricade behind which Canadian workmen find time for rest, recreation and thought; for it is true that those who are forced to work long hours, are the ones who are the nearest approached to slavery.

Now that some changes are being made in some of the Departments of the Dominion Government, it is to be hoped that the suggestions this journal has for so long a time been urging, in the interests of Canadian manufacturers, may receive the attention it deserves. It is well known that under existing arrangements these interests are not as well looked after as their importance demands; and as we have heretofore shown, it requires no new legislation to enable the Government to carry this idea into effect. It is immaterial to the manufacturers how this is to be done so long as it is done; and the importance of the matter, and of our emphasis of it, is shown in the facts which we herewith give regarding the export trade of Canada in manufacturers for a long series of years. These facts have never before been given to the public, and we owe it to the courtesy of Mr. George Johnson, of the Statistical Bureau of the Department of Agriculture, that we are able to present them at this time. The clerical labor involved in preparing the facts was very great, and was not included, we imagine, in any calculations of the Department as regards the returns of the recent census. The facts were collated by Mr. Johnson at the request of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and we take pleasure in announcing that others of similar character will be published as soon as the preparation of them is completed. It has always been our contention that the manufacturing interests of Canada were made to appear as dwarfed and minimized in such official reports as appear in the Trade and Navigation Returns affecting our exports of manufacturers, and our object in working for some new Department of the Government, or some change in the methods of existing Departments, has been with a view to bringing the volume and importance of our manufacturing industries more clearly and prominently before the people of Canada and of the world. If the facts which are now presented for the first time in a concise form are surprising, we can assure our readers that other forthcoming facts will also show most favorably. Let this good work go on.

THE appearance of a deputation of Montreal agents of trans-Atlantic steamships at Ottawa last week, asking the Government to reduce the duty upon bar iron with a view to increasing the consumption in Canada of British made iron, thereby giving their steamers increased freights, recalls the situation. In 1890—we have no later facts,—the imports of scrap iron were about 53,592 tons, valued at \$678,574, or about \$12.50 per ton, the duty being \$2.00 per ton. In the same year our imports of bar iron were 10,190 tons valued at \$310,000, or

about \$30 per ton, the duty being \$13 per ton. Nearly all this scrap was imported from Great Britain, and was manufactured in Canadian rolling mills into bar iron. The low rate of duty, —\$2.00 per ton,—gave this material the preference over pig iron—duty \$4 per ton—in this industry, a consequence of which was that comparatively little puddled iron was made in Canada. This was hard on the blast furnace industry. It is somewhat more expensive to make bar iron of pig, though for some purposes such iron is considered of greater value than iron made of scrap. It can be seen, therefore, that we are not likely to have many puddling mills under existing circumstances. Puddled iron being more expensive to make the industry would be handicapped by a duty on its raw material—pig iron—100 per cent. higher than the duty on the raw material—scrap iron—used in existing mills. That considerable puddled iron is used in Canada is shown in the large importations of it, and in that a large proportion of the pig produced in Canadian furnaces is consumed in its manufacture. According to the ethics of protection the \$11 difference in the duty between scrap at \$2 per ton, and bar at \$13, should indicate the difference in wages paid to workmen employed in the Canadian mills, and probably some other slight charges. If the duty on scrap, which is a more advanced form of iron than pig, were raised to \$4, the same as upon pig, it would force the manufacture of puddled iron here, and to that extent greatly benefit our mining and blast furnace interest; and the presence of sufficient quantities of home-made puddled bar on the market, would evidently restrict the imports of the British article. If the scrap mill people could show that a \$1 duty on their raw material was working them a grievous injustice, no doubt the duty upon imported bar would be advanced.

AMERICAN manufacturers are discovering that their exporting interests are not as well looked after as they might be, and are demanding that a Department of Commerce be made a feature of their Government, the head of the Department to be a cabinet officer and a member of the President's official household. Meetings of influential business men and business organizations have been held in many of the trade centres, and resolutions have been adopted, the general tenor of which are to the effect that while there are a number of departments of the Government representing various interests of the people, no department exists especially devoted to the commerce of the country. Committees appointed for the purpose are preparing memorials to Congress, and having them extensively signed, setting forth these views, and requesting that the department of the Government asked for, be immediately authorized and organized. Regarding this matter the *American Manufacturer* says:

There certainly seems to be need of such a department. The commercial interests of the country are entitled to this recognition in the General Government. The creation of a Department of Agriculture has resulted in marked benefit to the farming interest, and it may reasonably be expected that a Department of Commerce will be alike beneficial to the trade and commerce of the country. Aside from the fact that general business interests require the establishment of such a department, it is urged that, under the present condition of things, there is too great a burden on the Secretary of the Treasury. Within a comparatively short time three men have succumbed to the exacting demands of this office, and it is held that the

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