

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

British Columbia, although she has suffered from the almost world-wide depression has possibly had far less to complain of in proportion to her population and resources than most other countries. Still, had we possessed manufacturing industries of our own we should have felt the pressure in a far lighter degree. We are consumers of considerable quantities of goods of all descriptions which are manufactured elsewhere than at home and this has been the means of taking away large amounts of money that would have served us in good stead had it been retained at home. We are not wishful to build up around us a Chinese wall; but we do say that even upon ever so small a scale local industries would have materially benefitted us, by keeping here for our own people's use sums of money the benefit of which other people are enjoying. Moreover, the freight rate upon much of this imported stuff is a heavy item of expense, sufficient, in addition to the national protective duty to encourage any early efforts in the direction of manufacturing.

There are, of course, industries that it would be folly for us to experiment with. They are not suited to our conditions, and the market which we could offer or develop outside of our limits would not be large enough to make the venture pay, and we say that we want no industry that must be pampered and tended like a hot house plant, since, after all, despite our best exertions, it could eventually be no more than a mere exotic to be got rid of as at best an expensive luxury. But there are various departments—some of which have been previously pointed out in these columns—which we might cultivate with very good prospects of success. There are numerous instances in this direction which fully demonstrate what the exercise of a little pluck and energy may do. Of course it would be uphill work for some time; but this ought not to discourage, as nothing yet has succeeded without hard work or, indeed, sacrifice at the period of its initiation and early growth. We invite some of our readers to express their views on this subject through our columns.

THE FRASER VALLEY FLOODS.

No one can rejoice more than we do to hear it officially stated that the Fraser Valley floods have not been as disastrous as was reported, and to be informed that the Province is well able to attend to and provide for the wants of the sufferers. There have undoubtedly been circulated some terribly exaggerated reports; but now it is to be feared the tendency is to minimize the consequences of the casualty. That there has been great loss and suffer-

ing cannot be denied. We could wish that it were possible to make light of the visitation; but the fact of relief work on a somewhat extended scale having been found necessary should cause those who have not been victims of the disaster to appreciate the fact that the consequences of the floods cannot be made up for without the display of broad liberality towards not those alone who are inclined to clamor for relief, but those who suffer in silence and whose sad case can only be learned by searching them out and investigating their claims.

According to the Provincial Secretary, who has been and still is upon the scene, the actual temporary needs of the victims of the disaster are being well provided for, but seed is wanted for the washed-out fields, lumber is required to repair and replace the houses and fences which have been destroyed, and agricultural appliances are needed to enable the farmers to again till their lands. We trust that all this will be abundantly forthcoming, and that the authorities and the committee appointed by the delegates from the different parts of the Province will not have to complain that their hands are being held by any lack of resources. Meantime there will be plenty of work for many at present idle hands, and if some of these would hereafter only take to the soil it might be better for them than to return to the already congested business centres.

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE BILL.

Mr. Charlton, M. P., and those few who think like him, if indeed they think at all, instead of being governed by narrow, ignorant prejudices, will doubtless now have a grievance against the Senate, and will get up a cry against it because the Upper House has thrown out the ill-digested "blue law" which the member for Norfolk has persistently striven to have placed on the Dominion statute book. Among other ridiculous provisions of this crude and ill-digested proposition was one to do away with the Sunday morning newspaper, whose advantages the people of this Province fully appreciate. Here in British Columbia the staff of the daily newspaper know what it is to have Sunday to themselves as a day of rest, the paper coming out on the Sunday morning, the entire day after two or three o'clock in the morning being their own to devote to purposes of religious worship, rest, or recreation. It is different with the newspaper men in the east. There the Sunday journal has no existence, and thus the Sabbath is apparently observed in the most rigid manner by the newspaper man.

But what are the facts? The reporter is compelled to work both Saturday and

Sunday, and so with the editor; the compositor beginning work at the ordinary hour on Sunday night, say six or half past in the evening, thus being deprived of the evening whether at home or at church. Here the stickler for Sabbath observance has no need to read his Sunday newspaper unless he chooses to do so. In the east, however, it may be remarked that men of the Charlton stamp are the worst growlers, supposing anything should have occurred on Sunday which is not duly chronicled on Monday morning. The action of the Senate in regard to the Charlton bill will not fail to commend itself to all but those who are "dye'd in the wool" with ultra puritanical proclivities.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

THE Intercolonial conference has been postponed from the 21st to the 26th inst., mainly because of the blockade on the C.P.R. and the impossibility of the Australasian delegates reaching the capital in time to attend the opening of the proceedings.

AFTER a somewhat sensational trial in the city of New York, Mr. Erastus Wiman, of the well known business agency of Dun, Wiman & Co., has been found guilty of forgery in connection with the financial business of the concern with which he was connected, and which he claimed to have done so much to build up and establish. We have no intention to discuss the merits of the case. Mr. Wiman has, it is said, appealed from the judgment; but there can be no doubt that on both sides in the conduct of the business there were grave irregularities. Unfortunately for him Mr. Wiman, who is an exceedingly clever man, has had too many irons in the fire, the result having been that he was financially swamped in some of his outside operations.

IN reply to a number of inquiries on the subject the Minister of Marine recently issued a circular letter on the sealing question. He sets forth that, although the British pelagic sealers had kept within the prohibited limits during 1892 their catch had been 46,362 skins, against 7,500 by the U. S. Government licensees on the Pribyloff Islands. It is also said that in 1893, when the largest catch was made in the history of the industry, the pelagic sealers had captured 70,332 seals, the licensees of the islands only securing 7,425 skins. The Minister does not think that anything will be allowed on the *modus vivendi* claims, and the comfort he has given to the sealers is of the coolest possible kind. It has been well pointed out, however, that the British Columbia sealers during the pendency of the arbitration did what the *modus vivendi* required, and are therefore entitled to the compensation agreed upon by that convention.