

our commercial system were more completely established. We say, therefore, let us settle the trade question for Canada as speedily as possible, and, after that, "let us have peace."

"HANDS" AND "BRAINS."

In some of the factories of Britain an interesting experiment is being tried, which might with advantage be imitated in this country.

With a view of encouraging employes to take more interest in their work, and at the same time stimulate their inventive faculties, the plan has been adopted of offering rewards to any of the men or apprentices who can devise any improvement in the machinery manufactured, or any means of reducing the cost of manufacture, either by improving the tools used, or altering the process of manufacture.

There can be no doubt that the more intelligent the workman, and the greater the interest taken by him in his work, so much the better will the quality of the work turned out be. It is possible to reduce a man almost to the level of a machine, but never can he be brought down altogether to that position. However low he may be sunk he still retains some feeling and some power of thought which will repeat themselves in his work.

If the feeling be of dissatisfaction, if the thought be mainly bent upon such questions as how to do the least amount of work in a given time, or how to get the most money with the smallest amount of return for it in the shape of labor, then the feelings and thoughts of the workman will be certain to injuriously affect both the quality and quantity of his work.

On the other hand, if the workman feel comfortable in his work, and if he be stimulated by due appreciation and hope of fair reward for useful improvements, then the feeling of comfort and the energy of thought will show themselves in increased skill and carefulness, and greater diligence.

The tendency of modern systems of manufacture is to trust more to machinery and less to the workman; yet no matter how perfect the machinery used, the employer must be dependent upon his employees for the keeping of that machinery in order, and for a hundred matters of daily routine. As a matter of fact, the more complex and complete any system of machinery may be, so much the more intelligent must the brain be that is to guide, direct, and adjust it.

The use of high-class machinery, while it leaves less to be done by the ordinary and less skilful workman, has opened up a necessary demand for some better "hands," who have the skill and sense to put their brains into their work. The hope of filling one of these more responsible and better paid positions should stimulate every young mechanic to acquire the necessary knowledge and skill.

If our manufactures are to continue successful and grow with the country, efforts ought to be made to educate employee, and not to depend upon the United States or Great Britain for those capable of filling the better paid positions.

One of the best ways of doing this would be to adopt the plan, or something like it, referred to in the beginning of this article.

THE TARIFF COMMISSION BILL IN CONGRESS.

After long debate the Tariff Commission Bill has passed the American House of Representatives, and its speedy adoption by the Senate is looked for as a matter of course. As it is supported by the party to which President Arthur belongs, and as there are no treaties with foreign powers to be considered, as in the case of the first anti-Chinese bill, it will be promptly signed by him and become law. The bill provides for the appointment of a mixed commission, half members of Congress and half private individuals, representing manufactures, commerce, and agriculture respectively. It will be the duty of the commission to go over the existing tariff item by item, from the beginning to the end, taking evidence as to its working, and hearing suggestions as to points wherein it might be improved. Then a report on the whole matter will be made to Congress, as the basis of an amended tariff, on which Congress will be invited to take action.

In the passage of the Tariff Commission Bill the Protectionists have scored an important victory. It was strenuously opposed by the Free Traders, for much the same reason that the Fenians are opposed to the pacification of Ireland. They do not want the tariff amended, or made more satisfactory in its working, just because that would spoil their game, and leave them nothing to agitate for. The existing tariff has many and grave defects; its framework was constructed rather more than twenty years ago, since which time circumstances have greatly changed. Had it been as nearly perfect as possible when made, it would still need revision to adopt it to the changes of ten, fifteen, or twenty years. But it was far from perfect, it was made in a hurry in the first place, and of late years distractions of various kinds have hindered Congress from giving proper attention to its amendment. It is no argument at all against the principle of protection to say that the tariff of this or the other nation, established upon that principle, has proved defective in its details. We are nearly all agreed as to the principles of legal justice between man and man in matters of bargain and sale, and as to those which should govern the punishment of crime. Yet every session of every legislature sees many amendments to the law, both civil and criminal, the necessity for which is affirmed by the majority.

This important action now being taken by our neighbors is not without interest to ourselves. It has become one of the moral certainties of the near future, that there will soon be a revised American tariff, with many objectionable features of the present tariff eliminated, and many new and good ones added, as experience and evidence may suggest. This work done, the new tariff will be very much stronger and less open to attack than the old one. It will therefore stand the better chance of remaining as the nation's permanent decision on the principles of protection reduced to practice. The day of America's return to Free Trade is again indefinitely postponed; and Canada may learn a lesson from the fact. Still, we wait to hear from the *Globe* on the subject of America's sure and rapid progress towards Free Trade.

COVERED PULLEYS FOR BELTING.

In driving machinery which makes a great number of revolutions per minute it is often necessary to have comparatively