should be kept employed, but there is no justification for allowing the product of their labor to compete unfairly with that of free labor.

MESSRS. J. & J. TAYLOR, Toronto, are in receipt of quite a number of appreciatory letters from parties whose places of business were destroyed by the conflagration that almost totally destroyed the town of Gravenhurst, Ont., in September, but whose books, papers and other valuables were preserved by having been encased in fire-proof safes manufactured by the Messrs. Taylor. Mr. J. E. Clipsham states that his books and papers were brought out to his entire satisfaction, Messrs. Allan Bros. writes that the contents of their safe were preserved to their entire satisfaction, notwithstanding it stood within three feet of a tank of coal oil; Mr. Joseph Gaynor says that his books and papers were saved all right, there being no sign of fire whatever inside the safe; Messrs. B. R. Mowry & Son say that their safe saved their books and papers to their entire satisfaction; and Mr. Philip Bartholomew says identically the same thing. Messrs. A. S. Manders & Co., writing from Adelaide, Australia, to Messrs. Taylor regarding their exhibit of safes at the Exhibition in that city, say: "Long before this reaches you, you will have received the cable of your having received the highest award for safes over all makers, beating the great Chubb, of England; Phillips, of Birmingham; Simpson, of this city; and others. The jury in awarding gave you Special First Award, and recommended the commission to give an extra special prize. I will send you the official papers when they are out, which will not be for a week or more yet. They are 'J. & J. Taylor, Special First Highest Award.'"

A NEW coal cutting machine is thus described:—"It will do work which no other coal cutter will do. For instance, it cuts the floor perfectly smooth. It will cut up hill or down. It is self-acting. It does all the work instead of the man. It stands on its own truck while it works, and needs no timber or planks or tracks to run on, so the operator is not hindered by carrying around a lot of useless stuff. The machine weighs from 1,000 to 1,400 pounds. It cuts very rapidly, fully a lineal yard in one minute. At one setting and one starting it will cut 7 feet along the face of the coal and 4 to 5 feet under. It cuts and cleans off coal a space about 3 to 4 inches perfectly level next to the floor, thus breaking up the least possible part of the coal, and leaves the body of it to be blasted down in large pieces. One man and a boy can handle the machine easily, it being simple, and any intelligent miner can run it. It will cut any kind of coal, and glides through anthracite as readily as bituminous. It will also cut fire clay, slate, or anything it will come in contact with in a mine. It will drive entres and turn the rooms. It will cut twice the amount of coal with the same power that any other machine will. It cuts right and left, both ways from the center, having a reciprocating motion, thus all the power (compressed air) that is applied to it is utilized. The operator sits down on the footboard while the machine is working. It will do the work of twenty men, and will work in the lowest of coal. It will greatly reduce the cost of mining, and it is safe to say it will be the mining machine of the future."

MR. A. C. LAWSON, of the Dominion Geological Survey, has recently returned to Ottawa from the districts about Rainy River, Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods, where he has been conducting a geological examination and topographical survey of the country. This district, which lies in the extreme western part of Ontario—that part lying between Manitoba and Lake Superior—he describes as enormously rich in mineral wealth. Mr. Lawson says that on Manitoulin Lake, and what is known as the Lake Route, there is abundance of evidence of gold. The gold is found in quartz veins, carried by a green slate formation. Very little has been done towards mining, as up to a very recent date the Ontario Government refused to grant patents for the land, but from the examination of the country he made he is of the opinion that, when once worked, these quartz veins will yield a large percentage of gold. At Hunter's Island, Lake of the Woods, an immense iron bed has been struck, and from all appearances it is a continuation of the extensive bed now being worked in Minnesota, at the Vermilion mines. If such be the case the iron is of the best in America, and as for quantity, it is almost impossible to estimate it. Already thousands of dollars of American and Canadian capital (mostly American, however,) are being invested in this district in the purchase of claims, and big iron works are talked of. Adjoining this iron formation, and extending from Gunflint Lake to Thunder Bay, is the well-known silver region, which is perhaps the best known mining region in the country, not because it is the most valuable, but because it is the most extensively worked. The formation is made up of flat bedded slates and trap rock, which is cut by veins carrying silver, both native and argentite. The principal places where these mining operations are carried on are at Silver Mountain, Beaver Mine and Rabit Mountain, at each of which large quantities of ore are taken out every year.

MR. SANFORD H STEELE read a paper before the Oxford Club in Brooklyn last night upon "What Shall We Do With Our Convicts?" Heretofore, he held, the question has been "What form of labor shall be required of convicts?" but now, as if to illustrate the whimsical extremes to which popular opinion may go, it is seriously questioned whether convicts shall work at all. This startling proposition is advanced by the labor unions upon the pretence that free labor cannot endure the competition of convict labor. In 1884 convict labor was abolished in New York by law. There are now 1,300 convicts unemployed, and soon the existing contracts will expire, when all will be idle. There are legislators and newspapers found to openly approve of this condition of affairs. New York has a prison population of 12,800 people, of whom there are available for productive labor about 6,000, whose industry, if availed of, would come in competition with the wage-earning classes. In manufacturing alone there are 700,000 free workers engaged in this state. The proposition then is that 6,000 convicts should be kept idle for fear that their labor would reduce the average wages of 700,000 who are free, supposing that all the convicts even are engaged in manufacturing. These 6,000 convicts were engaged in actual competition before, and will be again, after their incarceration, with those who object to their employment under confinement. The cost of maintaining these 12,800 convicts is over a million and a quarter of dollars a year; and it is a grave emergency that would justify a state in wasting so much a year. But the cost in dollars and cents is the least serious feature of the problem. These convicts are nearly all destined to be returned to society. Their average age is under 25. The average term of imprisonment is five years, which is about the age and term of study of a college graduate. The speaker advocated the employment of part of the convicts upon public works outside the prison walls. The number to be employed in any industry should bear a fixed proportion to the number engaged in that industry outside the prison walls, and that proposition should be so low as to preclude any genuine complaint of competition.—*New York Times.*

FAIR-TRADE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

THE average wayfaring free trader, although he may not be possessed of a superfluous amount of brains, ought to be able to comprehend the following. It is a letter printed in the London (Eng.) *Fair-Trade*, in its issue of Sept. 30. It reads:—

"SIR,—My name is John Bull. I have a brother nicknamed Forger. His trade is that of an engineer, and makes all kinds of machinery. I plow and sow and gather into barns, etc. We have some half-brothers called Jonathan. We call them 'brothers.' They don't own us though. They are in our trades and live over the water, and they go ahead 'slick.'

"If my brother tries to sell an engine or other machine to go over the water they charge him 50 per cent. or 60 per cent. for landing it, making it so dear that either he sells at a loss or the customer pays more than the value: and if I offer some of my farm produce, I am served just the same. The consequence is, that my half-brothers keep all the trade on that side of the water to themselves and charge their customers their own price. But, unfortunately, an ancestor of mine (one Cobden) made a law that, if our half-brothers wished, they should at any time land machinery, corn, goods, etc., free on our side of the water, and he called the law Free Trade. Now, see how it acts. Jonathan makes two machines that *cost him* £90 each in labor, the material costing £40, total £130; profit, say, £20 on sale at £150. He sends one over the water to our customers and takes £150 back to him (good-bye to that), and has the other to sell over his side, which he can charge £160 for, as there is no one to compete with him on account of duty. Forger has consequently to close his works or lower the wages of his workmen, to compete with such one-sided trading. My corn suffers exactly the same, and my men have less wages and little work—all because the men are allowed to work for our market free of toll, while we have to pay 50 per cent. to 60 per cent. for theirs. As it is a matter as much for my men's advantage as my own (indeed, more so) I will bring the case home plainly. Suppose here in England I make 1,000 wheelbarrows at a labor cost of 10s. each, that will spend £500 in labor here. If I sell 500 of them here at 15s. each, £375 remain in England, and if I export 500 I shall have to pay 50 per cent. duty, which is equal to 7s. 6d. each barrow, so that I get back only £187 10s. for the 500 barrows, which has cost me £250 in labor alone—a loss of 2s. 6d. each. But if Jonathan makes 1,000