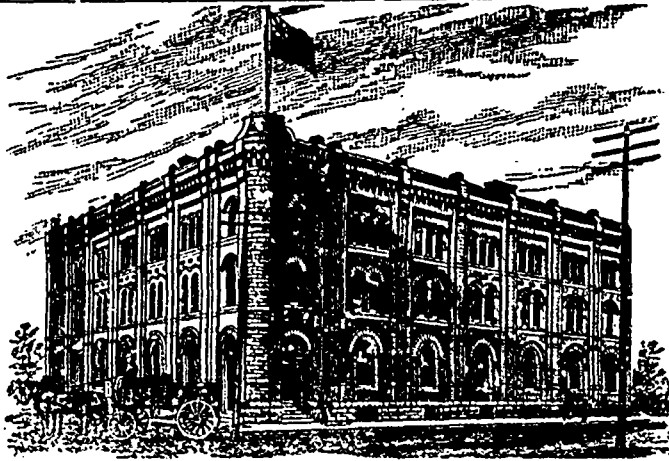


GOODS SOLD TO THE
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G. F. & J. GALT,
DIRECT IMPORTERS
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CORNER PRINCESS AND BANNATYNE STREETS, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

EVIDENTLY the Canadian system of grain inspection, by which all grades are fixed under the authority of the Central Government at Ottawa, while at times it may have its disadvantages, is a vast improvement upon the United States system of every state controlling its own inspection. There is a never ceasing wrangle between different sections there over grain grades, and even with an honest effort made to suit the wants of the locality, a system of inspection is sure to have its army of opponents and kickers at outside points, from which shipments come, and an illustration of the old school lesson of "The old man and his ass," is furnished from time to time.

But the Canadian system has also the great advantage, that inspectors are not mere political partisans, to be changed with the changes of administration, as is too frequently the case in the United States. Inspectors here are selected after careful examination as to their competency, by a board of competent examiners, and their appointments are made by the Dominion Department of Inland Revenue, while their time of office lasts while they perform their duties in a competent manner. A Canadian Inspector is thus placed in a position where he does not require to trim his inspection to suit any political breeze, while his working under a board of competent examiners, who decide all appeals against his action, furnishes a complete guarantee against his being arbitrary, or falling into any fossilized rut in doing his work.

The system of track sub inspectors, such as are appointed in places like Chicago, and too much under the influence of political pressure also, does not seem to work smoothly, and there will crop out from time to time proofs that competence was not the principal aim in their selection and appointment. In one instance lately a firm of Chicago commission men refused to accept the inspection of the track inspectors on a consignment of corn, and called for a re-inspection by the chief inspector. That official raised 27 out of 50 cars from No. 3 to No. 2 grade and on an appeal being made to the Board's committee of appeals the remaining 23 cars were similarly raised. Such an instance as that shows clearly, that in Chicago anyhow, there is an uncertainty about grain inspection,

which does not exist anywhere in Canada. In Winnipeg, for instance, the changes made from an inspectors decision by the appeal board do not average one car to every million of bushels.

On the relative output of iron and steel products in Great Britain and the United States, *Bradstreet's* of the 17th instant, has the following:

"Statistics of the number of tons of iron and steel produced in the United States and Great Britain for 1889 furnish good ground for belief that, on the whole, our domestic steel and iron industries aggregate an annual output about equal to that of Great Britain—a noteworthy fact in the industrial development of the two nations. Our production of pig iron has increased from 5,693,329 in 1886 to 7,603,642 gross tons in 1889, while in Great Britain the gain is from 6,870,665 to 8,245,336 gross tons. In steel rails the gain here is from 1,600,537 tons in 1886 to 2,139,640 tons in 1887, with a decline to 1,522,204 gross tons in 1889. In Great Britain the production of steel rails in 1886 was 730,343 gross tons, in 1887 it was 1,021,847 tons, and last year 943,048 tons. In this country the output of Bessemer steel ingots gained from 2,269,190 to 2,930,204 gross tons last year, and in Great Britain from 1,570,520 to 2,140,793 gross tons."

If it be true, as stated some months ago by another prominent trade journal of the United States, that the tariff has now become in many cases a burden upon, instead of an aid to the iron and steel industries, a freer system of trade intercourse with other countries would raise the United States very soon to the position of by far the greatest producer of iron and steel manufactures. Every now and again, the complaint of manufacturers of cutlery and other goods can be heard against a tariff, which raises the price of their raw material to an extent which makes it almost impossible for them to compete in export markets. Then the burdens upon imported ores for the manufacture of Bessemer steel, are undoubtedly a check upon the production of that commodity. Evidently the United States tariff web is so tangled with conflicting protected interests, that it is becoming difficult in many instances to know whether protection or a burden has been re-

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ceived from it. Still many of those who suffer deceive themselves with the false idea that they are protected. The whole situation proves the truth of Scott's couplet:—

"Oh! what a tangled web we weave,
When first we practice to deceive."

A PLEASING contrast to how nations with high protective tariff distribute a surplus of revenue is to be found in the budget of the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Goschen. He employs three and a half million pounds sterling in reducing postage rates to India and the colonies, in abolishing the duty on gold and silver plate and in securing a revision of the Greek import tariff on British goods, whereby British exporters secure easier access to the markets of that country. Every shilling is expended upon something calculated to extend British export trade, while at the same time he adds sixpence a gallon to the duty on spirits, a branch of trade he evidently does not want to encourage too much. A similar surplus in the United States would be employed in subsidizing tariff bolstered undertakings, that required such artificial props to keep them falling and crushing their creators or projectors, and in otherwise pandering to a national selfishness, which has reduced one of the wealthiest commercial nations the world has seen to a fourth or fifth place in the export trade of the world.

Commenting on the fact that two and a half millions sterling of this surplus came from increased revenue from duties on beer, wine and spirits, the consumpt of which last year showed a very marked increase, the *British Trade Journal* has the following rather cynical paragraph:—

"Such a circumstance has not occurred since 1874, when a great drinking year occurred simultaneously with a year of great commercial prosperity. That the renewed activity in trade which began with last year should again have been followed by a large increase in revenue from excise and customs duties on alcohol, gives color to the statement that the community has a habit of toasting its trading prosperity in strong drink, and that strict temperance principles go by the board when wages and profits are high. Our temperance, therefore, is simply the penance we do—the offering we make to propitiate fate—when commercial and industrial enterprises fail."