the exigencies of controversy. From neither has the public received a consecutive and dispassionate presentation of the questions involved.

It is therefore with a sense of relief that we turn to the volume under review in which the author has carefully digested his facts and has avoided emitting dangerous clap-trap. Not that we wish to concur in all Mr. Harpell's conclusions. This is not to be expected. But we thoroughly approve his constructive attempt to set forth Canada's economic conditions as they ARE, and NOT as our sanguine blindness leads us to HOPE they are.

Whilst we shall pay most attention to the chapter that treats of the mining industry, it will be well to glance over the whole volume.

The nucleus of the book was an article, entitled "Canada and Tariff Reform," that appeared over Mr. Harpell's signature in the "Contemporary Review" for January, 1910. The ideas there embodied are now set forth more comprehensively. Protracted residence in Great Britain has given the author certain advantages, and correspondence with many leading economists has provided a strong stimulus.

Chapter I. deals with the manufacturing industries. The fiscal policies of our political parties are here traced, and the influences that have led up to the overwhelming growth of our combines are analyzed and isolated. The gradual, but inevitable, effect of high protection, and of its offspring, the trust, upon labour, cost of living, and production is stated from the viewpoint of a declared free-trader. Official statistics, ranging from 1871 to 1906, are adduced to show that our manufacturing establishments have diminished in number tremendously. The effect of this centralization has been that now "hardly a staple commodity, whether imported or produced at home, . . . is not controlled by a few manufacturers and middlemen." While Mr. Harpell perhaps over-accentuates the resultant evils, yet his general argument is strongly grounded in fact. The tone of this chapter indicates the tone of the remainder of the volume.

In Chapter II. the author seeks to show that our preferential tariff is almost nugatory. The claim is advanced that with genuine free trade as between Great Britain and Canada, many of the most important commodities would drop 25 per cent. in price.

Chapter III. outlines the nature, methods, and profits of our combines, with especial reference to their relation to our banking system. Chapter IV. covers our natural resources and foreign trade, compares our adverse annual balance of trade with the favourable balances of such countries as the Argentine Republic, and alludes to the absence of artificial stimulation of industry in those countries in which tariff for revenue only obtains.

Chapter V., "The Farming Industry," will be considered the production of an alarmist. However this may be, the facts adduced are too significant to be blinked. That in ten years our exports of animals, butter, and eggs, have fallen to almost nothing, will come as a surprise to all but the best informed economists. That our boasted cheese industry is on the wane will also open many eyes. The presentation of these facts is clear and strong. The conclusions we shall leave for the reader to discover himself.

To the mining industry is devoted Chapter VI. The opening proposition is that no industry has suffered more from high prices and profited less from the considerations that produced them. The miner has suffered alike from the high cost of living and from the undeveloped home market—a market undeveloped because of high protection. This general statement Mr. Harpell illustrates by sketching the condition of certain branches of the industry. Although, in a broad sense, the statement is true, the examples given are forced. For instance, we do not believe that the falling off in Yukon gold production is attributable to any prime cause other than the depletion of the rich alluvials. Mechanical improvements will bring up the output as time goes on. Political maladministration and other factors have had but little effect in reducing the yield of precious metals. Human stupidity and human cupidity, have probably played larger parts. So also with the iron industry. The lack of well situated, properly developed, iron ore deposits in Canada has been a greater handicap to the industry than anything else. But it is quite correct to assert that iron, coal, cement, gypsum, copper, and allied branches of mining, where low cost of production is vital, are extremely sensitive to general economic conditions. The same cannot be postulated of gold and silver. As a matter of fact, Canadian placers and mines show in outstanding instances the lowest costs in the world.

The value of Chapter VI. seems to us to lie, not in Mr. Harpell's analysis, which is strained, but in his point of view, which is original and most conducive of thought.

Chapter VII. is a concise, rather meagre, view of the fishing industry. Absence of expansion is noted.

Chapter VIII. reviews the evils resulting from political and fiscal abuses.

Chapter IX. is a forceful plea for national economy. Special stress is laid upon the necessity of recasting our banking system.

Chapter X., "Reciprocity with the United States," is a tempting chapter to dwell upon. We must refrain. Suffice it to say, that it includes a co-ordinated series of facts, well-authenticated facts, leading up to definite conclusions. It carries no tinge of party politics.

In concluding this too lengthy review, let us point out again that, however Mr. Harpell's conclusions be received, his book is a timely and valuable presentation of statistical and economic data. This kind of material is educative. It stands in sharp contrast to the fireworks of the demagogue. It appeals neither to prejudice nor to passion, but to right and calm reason. We particularly commend the book in one dose to polemic professors and pyrotechnic politicians.

CORUNDUM.

The United States produces practically no corundum at present. Canada's production, altogether from the plant of the Manufacturers' Corundum Company, Craigmont, Ont., was 2,692 tons in 1910, valued at $172,-000. This is exported principally to the United States and Europe. The demand is considerably greater than the present capacity of the plant.

Infusorial earth is being used in a number of new ways. In Europe it enters largely into the preparation of artificial fertilizers, its powers of absorption being particularly useful. It is also used in the manufacture of water glass, various special cements, glazing tiles, glazing artificial stone, and in preparing pigments, aniline colours, paper, sealing wax, fireworks, gutta-percha, Swedish matches, solid bromine, papier-mache, etc. The demand is growing steadily.