

tion. The Canadian woolen industry in free trade 1878 required 4,608,000 pounds of foreign wool to supply its mills. In 1894, which was a somewhat dull year too, it required 7,160,000 pounds of foreign wool, and in 1893, which was a fairly good year, it took 10,503,000 pounds. A decadent industry does not make a record like this.—*Montreal Gazette.*

Flax-growing is still to the fore in the Colony of Victoria. Writing to the Melbourne Leader, from Numurkah, Mr. James William says :—

"Yesterday I sent to Jas. Miller and Co. and McLean Bros. and Rigg samples of flax only sown 11 weeks which at 9 weeks I measured, in their presence, 4 ft. 4 in. Part was pulled, part cut with an old McCormick reaper and binder. An old expert pulled some of this last Friday, and in what I cut there was less waste, and I believe this is the first that has ever been cut with a reaper and binder. I intend to put some of it through the common thrasher to save the seed, and also the fibre, as a test. This, I am informed, has never been done before in the colony. I am satisfied the crop will pay a lot better than wheat to export for oil purposes alone, independent of the fibre."

Canada can grow flax to quite as good advantage as Australia, but the policy of both the Dominion and Ontario Governments to manufacture binder twine by convict labor is a blow at the industry from which it will not recover until existing conditions are changed.

Mr. H. Ogilvie Bennett, president of the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands, West Indies, writing to the London Times says that the Queensland

government's action in giving the planters the financial support necessary to enable them to erect central factories has imparted fresh impetus to a movement in that direction in the West Indies, where it has been a hard struggle for owners of even the best equipped sugar plantations to hold their own, and an almost hopeless one for small growers. The canes treated in the present small factories and now giving one ton common process sugar would, if dealt with by a central factory, yield 1½ ton of sugar (Demerara) crystals. This is not all. In islands like Antigua large areas of good cane land are uncultivated. If central factories were established and ready to purchase cane these lands would soon be reclaimed and the export of sugar in a few years be doubled, which would bring an improved demand for labor and a general revival of prosperity. Already in Antigua there is a large body of peasants who grow canes, but they can only get them crushed at neighboring factories after the planters have finished their own crops, and consequently out of season. They have also to pay a large share of the produce for the use of the factory. There is now a strong public feeling that central factories are of vital importance, and it is generally admitted that they cannot be established without government aid.

Some years ago, remarked the Hon. J. C. Patterson at Orillia, it was found that a great deal of mess pork was being imported from Chicago, and a duty was at once put on it by the Government, and it decreased from 2,700,000 pounds to 400,000 pounds, and the result was that the Canadian farmer got possession of the home market. It

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