

would continue to pass overland—at increased cost and trouble—to and from the Atlantic, when they could be almost as easily shipped from Western cities as from those which stud the Eastern coast.

Increasing so rapidly as the Great West is, immense as its trade will ultimately be, the St. Lawrence route must become their chief high-way. We cannot imagine how anybody conversant with their past progress and future prospects, can hold a contrary opinion—unless it be that they hope to discover a cheaper than water communication. In trying to direct Western trade through our waters, we are taking the surest course to build up, to strengthen and to enrich, our own country. If all the traffic—or the greater part of it—of those mighty States stretching to the Pacific coast, could be made to form an outlet by our noble St. Lawrence, in thinking of the future of Canada, we might give reins to our imaginations—not fearing to colour the picture too highly. Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton—the towns near the Welland Canal—all would have a great destiny before them.

Under any circumstances, we hope to see our lake shipping make steady progress in the future. We feel convinced that better commercial relations between the United States and Canada must result before long, and it is to be hoped that all restrictions upon the shipping of either country will be taken off. Our friends across the way have always been rather liberal in their shipping laws. Their canals are not open to us as ours are to them. We have allowed the registration of American and all foreign vessels without charge; they have not. For years, our Government tried to induce theirs to have the lakes made free to vessels of both countries for coasting purposes, but all our efforts were in vain. There are signs at present, however, that more sensible views are beginning to take root among them, and if they become strong enough to influence the Executive, it will be a fortunate thing for the people of both countries.

The diversion of our trade from the United States to other and more distant countries—now taking place—is likely to increase our shipping. We cannot trade with the Maritime Provinces, the West Indies, Brazil, and the ports of the Mediterranean, without more vessels. This is likely to give an impetus to our shipbuilding interest—one of the most important we have. It will also give us the profits of a large carrying trade, and otherwise add to the prosperity and importance of the country.

Under Confederation, we are bound to become the third maritime country in the world. We have the workmen and the material to make the ships, and our trade—both on the ocean and lakes—promises to be such as to require them. We rejoice that this is the case, as it will help to make us strong and independent as well as prosperous.

THE CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT.

FROM the "Report of the Select Committee on the Copper Mines on the North side of Lake Superior," laid before the House of Assembly, the following testimony to the bungling inefficiency of the Crown Lands Department is taken:

Mr. J. P. Mansfield, a gentleman interested in the Batchewanning Bay mine, says:—

"I was notified by Mr. Wilson of the Sault, that we had no right to cut timber on our location, granted to us by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, which I used me a journey from Superior to Quebec. Afterwards, I was notified by the same Wilson that I must pay timber dues on all logs used in the construction of railway loghouses and docks. A Mr. Mastland also stated that he had obtained from Mr. Wilson a timber license, and that, consequently, I must pay him for said license, which I did to the amount of \$200.00. In consequence of the demand made by Mr. Wilson for timber dues, I have had to perform a journey to Ottawa, thus incurring considerable trouble and expense; but on my arrival in Ottawa, I was assured by the Commissioner of Crown Lands that the timber dues shall not be collected."

A journey from Superior to Quebec, and another from Superior to Ottawa, in consequence of demands made, which, under the circumstances of the case, had no foundation in justice, must have given Mr. Mansfield proof that our Crown Lands Department have a sagacious mode of encouraging the development of the mineral wealth of the country.

Thomas A. Begley, Esq., being asked the comparative merits of the American and Canadian systems of allotting mineral lands, says:—

"The system of Canada will not bear any comparison to the American, or United States, system. There, you pay your money and get a title at once. In Cana-

da you may pay your money and it may be given to a favorite. After paying in the money, expense of exploring, and having been informed, in writing, that I could have the lot, I could not obtain the patent until more than three years after; consequently, the mine is idle during that period. The persons who frame the regulations are generally ignorant of the nature of the country, ignorant of the mode of development, ignorant of mining operations, of the quantity of land required for mining purposes, in fact, ignorant of all they should be acquainted with."

Even Sir William Logan's testimony bears witness to the ineptness of the Department. Here is a gentleman of the highest scientific attainments, possessed of a great amount of practical knowledge, whose ideas can, at any time, be obtained for the purpose of dispelling the crass ignorance of the Crown Lands officials,—and he, it seems can point out a system far better than that pursued. And he is supported in his view of the value of this other system by other witnesses. If Sir William's knowledge of this system has been at the service of the Department, why has he not been consulted? Why is it that the officials of the Department are "ignorant of everything they should be acquainted with," when the means of knowledge are obtainable?

A friend of the writer has an odd theory by which he explains many instances of Governmental stupidity. A staunch loyalist, believing that Canada is possessed of greater resources than the United States, and that our wealth per head is greater, he will have it, that stupid tariffs, blundering financial schemes, and official ignorance, are all the result of satanic machinations to throw this country into the arms of the United States.

In many directions, mining enterprises are being pushed with astonishing celerity. Well aware as we have been for some years past of the great mineral wealth of the country, it has devolved upon foreigners to do for us what we might have done ourselves. Even the regulations of the Crown Lands Department are not proof against American ingenuity. But will we rejoice at any acquisition to our wealth, come from what quarter it may, it is saddening to reflect that it might have been otherwise. How many an honest native enterprise has been prevented from being undertaken by the known difficulty of dealing with the Crown Lands Department. How little encouragement has been offered to native explorers. And it certainly does seem, in view of the self-destructive folly of many regulations of the Department that an effort is being made to place the control of mineral interests in the hands of mere speculators.

Let there be an end to this way of doing business. Let the department adopt the suggestions of Sir William Logan, and "follow the example of the European countries in respect to unopened or unworked mines. In Spain, Norway, and some other parts of Europe, any person may open new mineral ground or enter upon any abandoned or unworked mine, even if it should be upon private property, but this part of the rule it would be inexpedient to follow. He has only to signify his act to the inspector of mines, and obtain from him a letter of license, which is given in a specified form and registered. The conditions are the payment of a small lordship, and the working of the mine. The mine, therefore, must be constantly occupied. The moment occupation ceases, any one else may enter upon it in the same way. A Surveyor's plan of the position of the location is scarcely necessary, as it is sufficiently proved by the occupation of the unregistered miner. This mode establishes little or no expense beyond the salary of the Inspector of mines and an office. The duty of the Inspector of mines would be to issue and register the licenses, and annually or periodically to examine each mine, to see that the condition of occupation was complied with, and that a working plan of the mine was properly kept up. If he were a thoroughly competent person, skilled in geology, mineralogy, and chemistry, a great amount of information on minerals might be gradually accumulated, and a periodical report by him on the condition of all the mines in the country would become a permanent record of Canadian Mining industry."

NEW APPLICATION OF INDIA RUBBER.—In France, whence enormous quantities of wine are exported, the time and material expended in packing the bottles are of immense value. A great saving on this has been effected by the use of India-rubber rings, which, placed round the bottles, prevent all jar, and, by keeping them apart, renders breakage impossible. When the bottles are unpacked, the rings are put aside for subsequent use.

FREE TRADE AND PROTECTION

(From a Correspondent.)

IF the doctrine of protection for manufactures had no more able exponent than J. C. H. of Stanbridge (whose letter appears in the last issue of the *Review*), Free Trade would soon carry the day. His illustration of the two smiths is so extremely absurd, and shows such an entire ignorance of the bearings of the whole question under discussion, and of the working of our export and import trade, that to reason with him would be an utter throwing away of time and pains. To shew the absurdity of J. C. H.'s nice little story, and its entire irrelevance to the subject, it is only necessary to ask how much protection the needy smith needs to secure him (the home market) against his foreign competitor. He needs no legislative aid, for he can, taking the time and trouble of the farmer into account, furnish the horse shoes very much cheaper than the man whose forgo is ten miles distant.

The letter of Mr. F. A. Whitney, in the same number of the *Review*, setting forth the aims and objects of the Canada West Manufacturer's Association, is moderate in its tone, and is plausible enough in its arguments to deserve careful attention.

Lurking first to the extracts from the constitution of the manufacturing association, it will be seen that that document asserts, among other things, that the recent action of the legislature in its change of tariff was inimical to the individual interests of the members of the society, in inviting foreign competition to divide with them their limited local trade. Now, a strong argument in favor of Free Trade is that the local trade, except for a few leading articles is so limited as not to furnish employment for manufacturing industry on a scale sufficiently large to ensure the highest point of economy either in the use of machinery, or in the division of labour, which latter is always governed by the demand for the production. Of course there is no class selfishness involved in shutting out foreign made goods in order to secure the local trade!

Again the document under consideration states that the interests of agriculture and manufacture are identical and reciprocal, "and that we look with confidence to the aid of our farmers and wool-growers in placing both interests beyond the reach of foreign interference." Plausibly patriotic to be sure, but, Mr. Manufacturer, suppose the Canadian wool-grower were to ask, as has been done in the United States, to share in the benefits of protection, and desire to have all chance of foreign competition taken away, would you be able to see so clearly that the interests of the manufacturer and wool-grower were identical? You would be ready enough to see that to obtain the raw material as cheaply as possible would be for the benefit of the manufacturer at least, if not of the country generally; and unless forced, as in the United States, to make the concession in order to obtain the support of the wool-growers in return, you would not move a finger to increase the price of wool. Oh, yes, you are quite unselfish!

The general purpose of the Society as stated in its constitution, is entirely praiseworthy. Its specific intent is to use every legitimate means to prevent violent fluctuations in the customs regulations, and to secure an arrangement of these customs affording legitimate (?) remuneration to the investment of capital and enterprise. "Its policy is moderation, and the restoration of the recent tariff, so far as Canadian interests are concerned, is its standard of moderation." Mr. Whitney, in defending the Society from a charge of selfishness, points to the moderation of their views, and to the wide scope of usefulness they propose to open out for themselves, and finds it difficult to see where the organization is open to such a charge, as it advocates the cause of the manufacturer because of his usefulness to the community generally, and of the direct benefit he is to the farming and other industrial interests. Of course they advocate the cause of the manufacturer in the way most likely to blind the eyes of the community, in the way by which many a man has been induced to give his name to, or invest his money in enterprises, because he was led to believe they would benefit him. It is a very good plea with which to approach the farmers, the fishers, the miners, the lumberers, and the other producers of Canada's wealth. "Gentlemen, we the manufacturers are going to employ a number of laborers, and to supply these laborers, their wives and families, with the necessities of life, a market is close at hand for your commodities. We will buy your wheat, and your herrings, your iron (if you can let us have it more