



shady business transactions, but although sailing close to the wind, has always managed to keep clear of the law and its punishments. In this instance, however, he just overstepped the mark, and when his accomplices squealed on him, he was placed in the dock and tried and punished as a common felon. It is certainly a sad sight to see an old man like Baxter have to spend what will probably be the remainder of his life in gaol, but the punishment is just, and the lesson should not be thrown away on all those who occupy positions of responsibility and trust. The mills of the gods may grind slow, but they generally manage to get there eventually with both feet.

**WITHDRAWN.**—As our readers are already aware, Mr. Farwell, M.L.A., introduced a Bill into the Ontario Legislature this session empowering towns and cities in this Province to license and regulate corporations and persons selling coupons or trading-stamps or dealing in gift enterprises. Under Mr. Farwell's proposed Act, the municipalities above mentioned were to be empowered to impose a license fee upon such businesses of \$2,000 in cities having a population of over 30,000; \$1,000 in smaller cities, and \$500 in any town. When the Bill came to be read a second time, the mover pointed out that great loss and injury was done to legitimate business by these trading-stamp companies, who were simply caterpillars on the commercial leaf, and levied a toll upon the retail commerce of the country without giving any value whatever in return for it. These schemes were, he contended, demoralizing in their tendency, inasmuch as their effect upon the confiding and often ignorant public was to make them believe that they were getting something for nothing by demanding their coupons. He thought that honest dealing and fair play demanded that the legitimate retail trade of this Province should be protected against schemes of this kind, which not only enriched the promoters unfairly, but had a bad effect upon the public, and was a great detriment to the retail trade generally, more especially now when the competition of the great departmental stores had cut their profits down to the very lowest notch. The Bill was opposed by the Attorney General, the Hon. Mr. Gibson, on the ground that he did not think the legislature should sanction or endorse any such drastic interference with private enterprises. He also objected on the ground that the license fee proposed to be levied in cities was so large that it looked as though it was intended to be prohibitive. The Hon. Richard Harcourt, Minister of Education, wanted to know more about the Bill and the promoters thereof. He wanted to know all about it, and what was behind it, and did not hesitate to characterize it as totally uncalled for and not in the interests of the people generally. The Hon. J. R. Stratton, Provincial Secretary, expressed the opinion that the Bill was not only all right in itself, but that it was largely in the best interests of the legitimate retail trade of the Province. He said that it had the endorsement and backing of a large number of reputable business men throughout the country, all of whom considered that trading-stamp enterprises were detrimental to the interests of honest trade. Mr. Whitney, the leader of the Opposition, had an open mind upon the question, and wanted more information before he cared to express any personal opinion for or against the Bill. He would be glad if some person familiar with the working of the system would give the House some information upon the subject which would help them to a decision. He thought that the matter should be thoroughly enquired into, so that when they passed any regulations regarding it they would be radical and thorough and in the interests of the people generally. Mr. Farwell, after hearing the strong stand taken by several members of the Government regarding the Bill, decided to withdraw it for the present session. It is probable, however, that another year will see it again on the order paper, and its supporters better organized to push it to a successful issue.

**THE INCREASE** in the preference to imports into Canada from Great Britain from 25 per cent. to 33½ per cent. to go into operation on the 1st of July of this year, is arousing no little opposition from a number of Canadian manufacturers, more particularly those engaged in woollen and cotton industries. These manufacturers claim that their business will be crippled by this extra preference, and they have already made strong representations to

the Government regarding this proposed change. Three things are quite evident to any person who has studied the question of Canadian national prosperity, viz.: (1) that manufactories are a necessity if Canada is to make any rapid strides as a country; (2) that they can only be built up by a protective tariff, and (3) that in order to keep them here they must have a tariff high enough to protect them against foreign goods, whether such be made either within or without the British Empire. It is nonsense to say that our industries having got a start under protection, they should now either be able to get along under a revenue tariff or go out of business. The cotton and woollen men say that they simply can't exist under the new conditions in regard to British competition and that if it is persisted in, it will mean ruin to many of them. This we are sure that the Government do not want to bring about, while at the same time they are anxious to reduce the protective duty to the very lowest notch at which the manufacturers can get along. In our opinion what the Government should do is to try to build up an increased trade with Great Britain not at the expense of Canadian, but American manufacturers. In order to do this, the tariff generally should be raised up to the level of the McKinley tariff or thereabouts, and then give manufactures from the workshops of Great Britain a reasonable preference, (say 25 per cent.) without any *quid-pro-quo*, but simply out of gratitude and love to the Old Land from which we sprang, and to which we are attached by the strongest ties. Beyond this, we think any further preference should be paid for by Great Britain by allowing us preferential rates on our breadstuffs and other natural products, and our Government should endeavor to bring this reciprocal trade about as speedily as possible. They should also endeavor to negotiate reciprocal, preferential treaties with every part of the British Empire with which such can be made to our mutual advantage. In any case, however, the *minimum* tariff on goods imported, whether from Great Britain or any part of the British Empire, should be high enough to afford *adequate* protection to Canadian manufacturing industries. We were in hopes that as the country was fairly prosperous, the Government would leave the tariff alone, for although it was not considered high enough by many manufacturers in certain lines, so long as times were prosperous in Canada and the United States they could get along with it, and they did not care to make any kick until there was some real reason. However, the Government in its wisdom has seen fit to reduce the duty considerably (by 8¼ per cent.) as against goods manufactured in Great Britain, and this will not only produce dissatisfaction in the near future, but will accentuate it should times get dull either in Canada or the United States. We are sorry that this question of *adequate* protection to Canadian industries which we thought had been practically settled to the satisfaction of both parties should be thrown into the political arena again, but it has apparently been done, and we shall doubtless have the same old discussions over again as before. We are sorry for it.

**CUTTING OLD FILES.**—Do not throw away the old files. They may be rendered useful again by the following process: First boil the old files in a potash bath, brush them with a hard brush and wipe off well. Next plunge them for half a minute into nitric acid, and pass them over a cloth stretched tightly on a flat piece of wood. The effect will be that the acid remains in the grooves and will take the steel without attacking the top, which has been wiped dry. The operation may be repeated according to the depth one desires to obtain. Before using the files thus treated they should be rinsed in water and dried.

**TO PRODUCE DRYING OILS.**—To render oils for varnishes, paintings, etc., dry, one of the most economical means is to boil them with shot or to leave them for some time in contact with shot or else to boil them with litharge. Another method consists in boiling the oils with equal parts of lead, tin and sulphate of zinc in the ratio of 1 to 10 part (weight) of the united metals to 1 part of oil to be treated. These metals must be granulated, which is easily accomplished by melting them separately and putting them in cold water. They will be found at the bottom of the water in the shape of small balls. It is in this manner, by the way, that shot is produced.