

may be believed, were in substance used by Mr. Wilson in the House of Representatives, in announcing the capitulation of the House, and its acceptance of the Tariff Bill with all the Senate's amendments unchanged, seem scarcely too strong to describe the actual situation. After a struggle of months, during which the business interests of the nation have suffered ruinous loss and multitudes have been brought to the verge of despair through want of employment, the representatives of the people, backed by all the influence of the President, have been signally defeated and obliged to accept a Bill which it is almost an open secret was framed at the dictation of the great monopoly in question, so far as its crucial clauses are concerned. This great struggle, which is, we believe, without parallel in the history of the working of American Republican institutions, is probably but begun, rather than ended. It will now, we must suppose, be transferred to the people. If the majority remain of the same mind as at the time of the last Presidential election and before, they will have to consider not only the old question of tariff-reform but the new and perhaps more difficult one of Senate-reform. The fact obviously is that the American people will have either to devise some changes in their constitutional machinery by which the will of the people, once it has been distinctly expressed at the polls, can be made effective and paramount, or confess in the eyes of all the nations that their vaunted Republican system—"the best system of government in the world"—does not ensure the rule of the majority, or government by the people as ordinarily understood, but is in practice the rule of a moneyed aristocracy.

Some of Mr. Wilson's figures are too astounding to be easily accepted; e.g., his statement that, relying on the certainty felt beforehand that the Senate Bill would prevail, the Sugar Trust has already bought sugar in foreign markets to the value of \$112,000,000, and the calculation that it will make a profit of \$40,000,000 on the transaction. But in our amazement at the extraordinary success of the monopolies we are almost forgetting the more practical question of the provisions of the Tariff-Bill as passed, and its probable effect upon Canadian trade with the Republic. The separate bills passed by the House, after its surrender, providing for putting coal, iron ore, sugar, and barbed wire on the free list, are of course valueless, save as "an assertion of principle." But as the principle thus asserted is the very principle which had just been given up in the acceptance of the Senate amendments, the passing of these bills reminds one very much of the defiance we often hear defeated boys fling back at their antagonists, as soon as they have by running away reached a safe position. Nevertheless, some progress has been made. Free

lumber, and reduced duties on coal, iron ore, and other natural products, can hardly fail to be helpful to Canadian as well as to American industry. There is, moreover, the hopeful consideration that no retrograde movements are likely to be made in this war, and that every advance gained will be helpful in the further progress of the contest for commercial freedom.

THE AUSTRALIAN MARKET.

The *Globe* of Saturday last contained an excellent and well-nigh exhaustive report on the imports and exports of the Australian colonies, by Mr. Carter Troop. This report is the result of personal investigation by Mr. Troop, who had the best facilities for obtaining reliable information, being furnished with letters of introduction to leading men in the different colonies, from the then acting Premier of the Dominion (July, 1893), from several of the leading newspapers, and from the Lieut.-Governor of Ontario. So furnished, he had no difficulty in obtaining access to Cabinet Ministers, prominent men in all departments of trade and industry, editors of leading newspapers, and others in the different Australian colonies, who were able to aid him in his investigations. Of these opportunities Mr. Troop evidently made excellent use, and his report is unquestionably one of the most valuable statistical documents touching the living question of intercolonial trade that has yet been published.

The space at our disposal will not admit of more than general reference to a few of the more salient facts brought out in this report, which it is to be hoped will be given to the public in some more compact and permanent form. Recognizing the fact, which seems sometimes to be lost sight of to too great an extent, that trade, in order to be successful, must be mutual and mutually profitable, Mr. Troop deals with both the imports and the exports of the Australian colonies in a very practical and direct manner. Among the articles of import which Canada might hope to take an important part in supplying, are timber, fish, condensed milk, agricultural machinery and implements, hardware, woodenware of all kinds, furniture of certain kinds in a "knocked-down" shape, boots and shoes, furs, whiskey and beer, cotton and woollen wearing apparel, and musical instruments.

Should any Canadian, however, be disposed to harbor the idea that here is a wide open door, and that all Canada has to do is to complete certain more or less favourable trade arrangements and enter an unoccupied market, with assurance of immediately doing a large and profitable business, a careful perusal of Mr. Troop's paper will relieve his mind of such a misapprehension. In many of the articles enumerated the United States is already doing a considerable trade, and will, no doubt, prove a very formidable

competitor, especially as she already has the field, in certain of the most promising and profitable lines of trade. To what extent the advantages thus gained, and others which will readily suggest themselves, may be offset by special tariff arrangements between the colonies, depends upon the reception accorded by the British Government to the request of the Ottawa Conference for permission for the colonies to make preferential tariffs between themselves. It will not be wise, probably, to count too much upon this mode of overcoming competition. Much, we might almost say everything, will depend upon the prices and the quality of the Canadian goods. Should the Democratic policy of free raw materials prevail in the United States, it is pretty clear that our cousins would be able to offer their goods to our kinsmen at the Antipodes at prices with which we should find it very hard to compete. Mr. Troop informs Canadian producers again and again that the best and nothing but the best of its kind must be sent, if they hope to find and keep a market in Australia.

As profitable one-sided trade is impossible, we naturally turn to inquire what are the prospects for back-freights for the vessels that may hereafter convey Canadian products in larger quantities to the Australian shores. Mr. Troop enumerates as the principal exports to the Republic, specie, wool, coal, shale, tin, marsupial skins, flax and Kauri gum. Of these the most important is, of course, wool. We do not mention chilled meats, because it seems out of the question that Canadian farmers and herders should make it possible for producers on the other side of the earth to compete with them in their own markets. Mr. Troop is of opinion that if proper efforts were made to secure for Canada the wool trade of this continent, there is a chance for the business to become one of great magnitude, as Australian wool has by common consent the leading place in the world's markets. A growing but probably never very extensive business seems possible in some of the other products named, especially, we judge, in tin, hides and skins, and above all in sugar. As Canada imports sugar very largely, and New South Wales and Queensland, particularly the latter, have facilities for producing it in large quantities and at low prices, there seems to be no good reason why we should not procure this universally-used commodity from our trans-Pacific cousins.

Mr. Troop points out the fact, which has not perhaps been very clearly understood, that hitherto a large part of the trade between Australia and America has been done by means of sailing vessels, a very slow but also a very cheap means of intercommunication. The direct steamship lines, aided by the coming direct cables, have made and will make possible the interchange of a variety of perishable goods whose transmis-