

The statement that the United States has "become one of the great manufacturing nations of the world" is somewhat too sweeping. A nation which is enabled to send abroad in manufactures only a little more than eleven per cent of her exports can hardly be regarded as one of the great manufacturing nations. Of the whole value of the exports of the United States last year, \$522,000,000, only \$58,000,000 consisted of manufactured goods. It is obvious that a nation which requires high protective duties to enable her to keep command of the home market cannot compete, in the protected manufactures, on equal terms with other nations in the markets of the world. The exception will be in things which she has a special facility for producing, but the general rule must always and everywhere remain true. When specific exceptions are pointed to, it is always a sufficient reply to refer to the general fact. We agree with the writer of the circular that a wise discrimination should be observed in the framing of the tariff.

It is not at all certain that there will be any revival in the sawn lumber trade this year. So far as the Ottawa Valley is concerned, our advices go to show that the quantity manufactured during the season will certainly equal, and in all probability exceed the quantity shipped during the same period last year; and this notwithstanding the fact that many of the smaller, and one

In the United States the low freights still prevalent are exposing our manufacturers of sawn lumber to the competition, in the Eastern States of Michigan and its enormous production. We are handicapped with a duty, and although the theory may be correct in certain aspects of the market, and at certain points, that it is the consumer who pays the duty, we think at present the Canadian manufacturer may be pardoned the suspicion that some of it comes out of his pocket. How largely dependent our sawn lumber trade is, on the prosperity of our neighbours and on their prudent management of their affairs is shown by a comparison of the enormous figures of the lumber production of the Western States, not to speak of Maine, Pennsylvania and one or two other states, with the figures we have given for the Ottawa Valley. At a lumber congress in Chicago, in 1875, there were representatives of an annual production, of 5,700,000,000 feet, and the average pro-

In square timber, the outlook would have been better, had there been less timber to look upon. Notwithstanding the dull times we have had, this industry has been on the whole fairly remunerative in competent hands. There have been instances of loss and instances of ruin, but they have almost invariably resulted from a lack of capital; from inadequate judgment and knowledge; from untrustworthy character; or from all combined. Of the square timber wintered in Quebec, we are given to understand that not more than three and a half millions of cubic feet were in manufacturers' hands; and at the present moment, perhaps, not over a million and a half is in that position. This would not be an unhealthy state of affairs had the production this year been moderate. But somewhere about sixteen millions of feet will reach Quebec from the Ottawa Valley this season, the amount "stuck" being insignificant. There can be no doubt this is five or six millions too much. It is too early to say much about financial results, but the probability is that for good timber they will be fairly good although they would have been better had there been less of it. As for medium timber and poor timber, it is to be feared that most of it will turn out financially pretty much as classified. Taking the whole quantity at an average of sixteen cents a foot, which we would hope is not too high, considering that there is a great deal of good timber among it, its yield in money would be nearly two millions and three quarters of dollars. It is only necessary to mention this sum to show the vast importance to the Ottawa Valley of keeping this trade in a healthy condition. It is