

UNDERVALUATION.

CONSIDERABLE interest is being manifested as to whether the Canadian Government will strictly enforce the law regarding undervaluation of imported merchandise. And while the Government is interested in the enforcement of the law, affecting the revenues as seriously as it does, and while Canadian manufacturers are interested in it for obvious reasons, the surprising spectacle is presented of importers of foreign merchandise urging the Government to close its eyes to the fact that their invoices are cooked and their imports undervalued to an extent that makes it almost impossible for domestic manufacturers to compete with them. It does not appear, we are happy to say, that these undervalued importations are made by reputable Canadian merchants, but by the agents of foreign manufacturers. The usual method of doing this crooked business is for the foreign manufacturer to make a special line of goods which he sends to his agent, invoicing them at or below the cost of production. As there are no other goods made of that special line other than those alluded to, and none on sale in the home market, no special agent of the Government could be able to fix a home value on them, and therefore the invoice price would be accepted as *prima facie* evidence of their value. Once having passed the customs the manufacturer's agent is able to sell them at much lower prices than what similar goods command, to the injury of both the honest importer and the domestic manufacturer.

Under the Canadian Customs Act, section 92, any one in Canada may repudiate the payment of an account for goods which have been supplied him by foreign houses on fraudulent invoices, on which the goods in question have been entered at an undervaluation, and no court in Canada would compel payment if the account was sued.

The customs authorities have long been endeavoring to devise some means by which this species of fraud could be abated and the perpetrators punished; and it is understood that the enactment of a law will be asked charging an additional duty of 20 per cent on all goods imported into Canada on consignment to agents.

A FREE TRADER'S FLIPPANT ARGUMENT.

"THE Bowmanville Statesman points to the fact that live hogs are worth \$5.90 in Chicago and dressed hogs, in car lots, are worth only \$5.80 in Toronto, "which does not look very well, for the N.P. as a farmer's helper." We fail to see the point. The N.P. does not prevent the Canada farmer from taking his hogs to Chicago, but it does prevent the American farmer from bringing his hogs to Canada."—*Canadian Manufacturer*.

"The farmers will not relish the flippant way in which the organ of the subsidised manufacturers treats of the failure of protection to benefit agriculture. Protection would never have carried if the farmers had been told that the way in which it was proposed to exclude American hogs was to depress the price of Canadian hogs so that the Americans would have no object in sending their animals here."—*Toronto Globe*.

The glumosity of our contemporary is stupendous. Will the *Globe* please explain the process by which Canadian protection depresses the price of Canadian hogs, and how it prevents Canadian farmers from selling them in American markets.

As we before stated, the N.P. does not prevent the Canadian farmer from taking his hogs into the United States. If there was no tariff on hogs imported into Canada would the market price of them necessarily, or as a matter of course, rule higher than at present? If so, why? Would Yankee or Canadian dealers buy live hogs in Chicago at \$5.90 and sell them in Canada, dressed, at \$5.80 if there was no duty to pay? The "flippancy" of the *Globe's* argument lies in holding the Canadian Government responsible for the American tariff.

THE BRASS WORKERS' "DEMAND."

THE Executive Committee of the Brass Workers' Assembly, Knights of Labor of Toronto, have submitted their "demands" to the master brass workers of the city as follows: That nine hours shall constitute a day's work, Saturdays excepted, during the months of May, June, July, August, September and October, on which days only five hours shall be worked; all overtime to be paid at the rate of time and one-half; payments of wages to be made in full at the end of each week; an increase of five cents per hour on the present rate of wages; minimum rate of wages to be twenty cents per hour. All apprentices at the trade three years or longer to receive present wages for the hours worked by the journeymen.

This brass workers assembly is composed of brass finishers, polishers, moulders and core makers, spinners, opticians, electricians, brass wire-workers, drawers, and brass musical instrument makers.

This "demand" is to go into effect on May 2 and continue in force for one year, or until some further "agreement" is made, either side "desiring" a change to give three months' notice.

The "demand" was sent simultaneously to every master brass worker of Toronto, and compliance therewith requested in writing by April 21.

The master brass workers of Toronto seem to stand before this Brass Workers' Assembly K. of L. with their hands tied. The "demand" is imperative and absolute, and the "agreement" thereto which is "requested" is grimly sarcastic. They will probably be forced to enter a plea of *non contendere*.

OUR CARD BASKET.

THE following named manufacturers and business men have favored this office with their presence since the date of our last issue:—

F. J. Gibson, of Bryant & Gibson, pickle manufacturers, Toronto; Robert Cream, of the Ontario Straw Goods Manufacturing Co., Toronto; Charles Raymond, sewing machine manufacturer, Guelph; Thomas Cowan, President Canadian Manufacturers' Association, Galt; J. H. Walker, Manager Canadian Rubber Co., Toronto; Geo. W. Inglis, of the Geo. F. Blake Steam Pump Manufacturing Co., Boston; T. S. Fisher, wool broker, Toronto; E. A. Kemp, of McDonald & Kemp, tinware manufacturers, Toronto; George Booth, of Booth & Son, copersmiths, Toronto; Wm. Bell, organ manufacturer, Guelph; J. B. Carlile, Managing Director Manufacturers' Life and Indemnity Insurance Co., Toronto; Charles Knees, Dominion Cordovan Tannery, Milton.