

importations, which can only be done by reducing the duties to a point where foreign manufacturers are able to crowd out our domestic producers. Of course, every dollar's worth of foreign-made goods that comes into the United States means a dollar less spent for American goods and disbursed in wages to American workmen. No matter. It will increase the revenue and remove trade restrictions. That is to say, it will render altogether unnecessary any tax on beer and whiskey, and enable the Government to get along on customs collections alone. To be sure, it would incidentally give to foreigners the complete monopoly and control of the greatest market in the world, for that would inevitably be the result of increased revenues from increased importations. But that is a trifling detail compared with the triumph of the central idea, now so ardently and unanimously advocated by the Free-Trade press of the United States, that the great need of the hour is lower duties and increased importations, to the end that the stamp taxes necessitated by the war may be abolished without delay.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Cuba will never grow wheat nor make her own flour. She will continue to buy, as she has in the past, her "staff of life" in America, although the records say the bulk of her flour used to come from Spain. For the duty on flour imported by Cubans was only fifty cents per barrel if purchased from Spaniards, but \$4.75 if purchased of others. Spanish flour merchants made money by buying American flour, carrying it to Spain and then back to Cuba, and the Cubans "paid the freight," for, whether the duty actually paid was 50 cents or \$4.75, the consumer paid the same price in either case, the Spanish merchant pocketing the additional profit given him by the law. But now this selfish policy has ended. The military duty on flour is only a trifle over a dollar a barrel, and all the world's traders in that market stand on the same footing. In normal conditions Cuba is very rich; and being rich she will be one of our very best customers. In spite of every handicap of a medieval fiscal system, the island in 1893 bought \$2,821,600 worth of American flour. Let but order and her industrial prosperity be restored, Cuba should become, after Great Britain, in proportion to her population, the best market American miller will have in the world, and one of which they may hold undisputed control.—American Miller.

The Toronto Globe in one of its "Lessons in Economics," tells us for the thousandth time that if we do not open our markets to other countries, i.e., reduce our tariff to a free trade basis as near as may be, they will not buy our products. But what do we see? In a recent issue The Globe gives the figures of our foreign trade for the past year, in which, notwithstanding the twenty-five per cent. discrimination we show to British imports, we are not increasing our trade with free trade Great Britain, while our unabated tariff against American goods does not prevent trade between the United States and Canada going ahead by leaps and bounds. And then look at the wonderful foreign trade of the United States under the Dingley tariff. The fact is, commerce is selfish, and is not very much influenced by the style and color of the flag that waves over the country where goods can be bought cheaper than elsewhere.

Before this Government took office the United States duties upon Canadian products were relatively low. Since it has been in, the United States duties have been given a hoist upwards. At the same time the Fielding tariff has placed

numerous United States products on our free list and has cut down the duties collectable on others. The Americans have strengthened their position; we have weakened ours.—The Mail and Empire.

Accuracy is a valuable element in discussing economic questions. There never was a time since McKinleyism set the tariff standard of the United States that duties in that country were not twice as high upon the same articles as imposed by the Canadian tariff, not excepting the Gorman tariff interregnum under Mr. Cleveland. The Mail and Empire seems to forget that the Fielding tariff imposes a duty on sugar that came in free under the Foster tariff. There can be no disputing the fact, however, that if Mr. Fielding should adopt the tariff views of Mr. Dingley, it would result in as much prosperity to Canada as is now enjoyed by the United States.

A few days ago a deputation from the National Grange of the United States, headed by Mr. A. A. Jones, of Indiana, waited on the American Commissioners to the International Convention at the City of Quebec, and, in behalf of American farmers generally, protested against any concessions being made to Canada that would affect the farming interests of the United States. Mr. Jones said that the farming class was at least sixty per cent. of the population of the United States, and produced fully sixty per cent. of the wealth of the country. After a three months' trip visiting the farmers from the Rockies to the Atlantic, and after receiving official communications on the subject from all parts of the union, he desired to state that the farmers wanted no change in the tariff law. They were better satisfied with the existing conditions than for many years. Even the free traders among the democratic farmers believe that if protection was to be the policy of the country in the Dingley tariff they were not discriminated against in the interest of the manufacturer, but were fairly dealt with. Nothing had so depressed farmers, whether interested in wool-growing or not, as the clause of the Wilson tariff putting wool on the free list. It was a blow at the whole farming interest, the effect of which had been overcome only under the Dingley law. The farmers desired that the present law should have its advantages demonstrated by a further test, and they wished that there should be no interference whatever with any of the schedules. Some States were interested in hay, some in potatoes, and so on, but all, south, west and central, as well as those on the northern border, desired that the Dingley tariff be let alone.

At a recent meeting in Montreal of Canadian pulp and paper manufacturers, the following resolution was adopted:—"It is the sense of this meeting that an export duty be immediately placed on all pulp wood exported from Canada, (no matter in what shape or size), which would be equivalent to the present import duty on Canadian pulp entering the United States, unless the United States admit all Canadian pulp, both chemical and mechanical, free of all import duty."

In the calendar year of 1897 Great Britain exported \$1,170,000,000 of manufactures. The London Statist, in a careful estimate, whose details are given, shows that of these exports \$263,000,000 were raw material and the rest, \$901,000,000, were wages, profits and returns on capital invested in manufactures. In the fiscal year ended June 30, 1897, this