

not all of them, feel a delightful sense of independence and a freedom from fluctuating conditions. Working side by side with their rivals, and sometimes their competitors, they have a most useful effect on the quality of the work in large factories, and on the people who work in them. Nearly all the more respectable portion of the hands desire a lot as enviable as that of the self-employed artisan, and work under the stimulus of one day becoming their own capitalists. In England the number of trades and occupations open to small bodies of workmen is still important and shows a tendency to increase with the increase of thrift and economy. Since the establishment, in 1851, of the Schools of Art and Design, quite a new profession for men and women has been opened, and a large share of the designing formerly done in France is now executed by native talent. Not only for manufacturers' goods are designs made, but in house decoration and upholstery this new force finds for itself a special field. In preparing wrappers and covers, packing tins and boxes for manufactured goods, this faculty has another important sphere. Mathematical and scientific instruments and apparatus, and trades similar in character, are still in the hands of small men. Strange as it may seem there are in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and the Birmingham districts little trades rivalling and competing with their more powerful neighbors. In the same districts there are mills largely operated by the hands, who own the largest share of the capital, and these have weathered many a storm in times of trouble by their judicious management. In the north of England towns, where this system of co-operative working has prevailed, the scale of prices ruling in the district has often been regulated by the artisans' mill, and they have often been the first to discuss reductions in wages and in the output of the concern. Many of these men own their own cottages, and furnish quite a contrast to the shiftless and discontented neighbors always to be met with. In some of these workmen's joint-stock factories a decidedly permanent improvement has been remarked in the dignity and bearing of the men, which in times of severe depression is a powerful factor in stilling the more restless spirits. The habits of thought, the moderation, patience and courage which self-employed labor induces, very largely promotes security and stability. The problem of the day is to limit speculation and to make fewer those terrible calamities which now and then come down upon us as panics. The fact that those countries suffer least that have the most mixed system of industry and the most contented people, seems to suggest a more general advance toward that condition of commercial life which prevails in them. Not in any hard and fast order, but in the varied and free occupation, is the happiness and permanence of the state best secured.

THE AMENDED BANKING ACT.

In our last number we gave (pp. 180—94) a synopsis of the provisions of the amendments to the Banking Act introduced by the Minister of Finance. The Act came up for discussion in Committee of the whole House on Tuesday, when Mr. Fairbanks pressed for an amendment allowing firms now calling themselves "banking companies" to retain that designation. Sir Leonard Tilley consented so to amend that the designation

should be allowed, but with the words "not incorporated" to follow it wherever used. The bill was then ordered for a third reading on Wednesday.

Mr. Fairbanks and others opposed to the measure must see that they have really no support outside of the House, and that public opinion is overwhelmingly in favor of proper restrictions upon the business of "private banking." It is nothing short of a monstrous injustice that, while the regular banks, with their millions of capital, must conform to many very strict and even onerous conditions of law, private individuals may at their own will open offices for receiving deposits and other business, without either charter or bank act to restrain them at all. The Finance Minister has done well in promptly meeting a growing danger, which recent events have shown to be already a very serious one in Canada.

THE STATE OF CANADIAN FACTORIES.

As we have frequently before counselled Canadian manufacturers, it is inevitable that factory legislation must come some day in the near future. Where manufactures are few and unimportant, such legislation is not required, but when they grow and expand then the demand for it arises. If we had no N.P. there would not be much talk about factory laws in Canada. The *Globe*, however, overdoes the thing, and alarms itself a great deal too much when it tries to get up a *lightning* picture of "the state of Canadian factories." Doubtless there are evils already cropping up that the law will have to correct, and the Dominion Government is even now taking the matter in hand. But as yet we are only just beginning to have large factories and many of them; and the evils in question will be checked ere they have very far developed. Meantime our manufacturers may even be excused a little if, in the rush of making a beginning, some things have been omitted which will be attended to by-and-by.

Mr. H. Coombs, of Charlottetown, P. E. I., accompanied by Senator Howlan, and Messrs C. H. Tupper, Josiah Wood, Paint, and Hackett, M.P's., and Mr. Austin McDonald, waited on the Postmaster-General recently to ask for a subsidy of \$25,000 yearly for a line of steamers to ply between ports in the Maritime Provinces and West Indies. The Minister received the deputation cordially, and promised to lay the matter before his colleagues.

SPECIAL NOTICES

W. H. Owens, an extensive Pump manufacturer, has removed from Belleville, where his factory was burned down last October, to Peterborough, and has now in the latter town superior facilities for turning out promptly all orders entrusted to him. Mr. Owens manufactures a variety of Pumps, the more prominent of which are the cone, model and common suction pump. He also sells mowers, reapers and agricultural implements generally. He intends enlarging his premises the coming summer, his growing business rendering such a step a necessity.—*Adv.*