

traction, in the direction of consolidating the great merchant mills under the control of huge corporations. In referring to the formation of the Pillsbury & Washburn Flour Mills Company, at Minneapolis, the *Northwestern Miller* says:

"As in the last great change in the trade, from old methods to new, the northwest is the first to feel the altering conditions and takes the initiative in the new order of things which appears to have come about. The last great revolution in the milling trade was purely mechanical and had to do simply with the method of making flour. Since then, so radical was the change from old to new, and so marvelous the results thereof, that many believed another change must shortly ensue. The question as to whence it would come, what its character would be and when it would appear, has been a fruitful subject for speculation. May it not be that the new and great change in the trade which now appears imminent is a revolution of its commercial side and has to do not with the method of making the flour, but with the economical handling and disposal thereof?"

One of the features of flour milling has been the establishment of great flour manufacturing centres, such as Minneapolis, St. Louis, Budapest, Hungary, etc. The formation of the Pillsbury-Washburn combination would seem to indicate the consolidation of the milling industries of these great centres into great companies. Complaints have been heard of over competition in milling, and so it seems that over competition is to lead to the end of all competition. At any rate, since the introduction of the new system of milling, the capacity for flour production has been rapidly increased. Indeed, the scaling down of the cost of manufacturing and the reduction in the margin of profit, has rendered production on a large scale necessary, in order that aggregate profits might be kept up. With increasing production, extra efforts would be put forth to dispose of the commodity, leading to cutting in prices, consignments to overloaded markets, etc. And when competition has reached its limit, the next move is, naturally combination.

The consolidation of the milling industry of America is to be done apparently with British capital, and the first movement is the formation of the Pillsbury-Washburn Flour Milling Company representing a capacity of 14,000 barrels daily, and controlling two water powers and vast elevator interests. The mills of the new combination are located at Minneapolis with the exception of one at Anoka, Minnesota and include the Pillsbury A mill, which has actually turned out 7,200 barrels of flour in 24 hours, and is claimed to be the largest mill in the world; the Pillsbury B mill, which can grind 2,500 barrels daily; the Anchor mill, with a capacity of 1,500 barrels per day; the Palisade mill, capacity 2,000 barrels daily; and the Lincoln mill at Anoka, with a capacity of 1,000 barrels per day. These mills, with their large elevators, machine shops, etc., pass into the hands of the new company. The three mills first mentioned were controlled by the Pillsbury company, and the two latter by the Washburn company. The Minneapolis and Northern Elevator company, owning 132 elevators, ranging from 5,000 to 140,000 bushel capacity, all on the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba railway, and the Atlantic Elevator Co., with eighteen elevators, and twenty-six warehouses on the Minneapolis and Pacific branch of the Soo road, and an elevator of 500-

000 bushels capacity in Minneapolis, also fall into the hands of the company. In addition to these properties, there are the two water powers, valued at many hundred thousand dollars.

One feature of the movement to consolidate milling interests is that it is being accomplished with the aid of British capital, and is an outgrowth of the rage for the investment of British capital in American industrial concerns. In the milling as in other enterprise of a similar nature, the stock of the combination will be placed on the London market. The mode of conducting the companies is usually a board of directors in London and a local board of management. In the case of the Pillsbury-Washburn company, Chas. A. Pillsbury will be manager for five years, with John S. Pillsbury and W. D. Washburn, acting as the committee of management in America. The stock of the concern placed on the market amounts to about \$7,000,000.

### CHINESE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

There is certainly a great deal of opposition to the Chinese in British Columbia, and the popular voice is thoroughly opposed to Chinese immigration into the province. The great bulk of the population would prefer to see the Mongolians entirely excluded from the province, rather than countenance any movement toward removing existing restrictions upon Chinese immigration. The hint thrown on by the British Columbia delegation of cannery men at Ottawa recently, that the removal of the Chinese tax of \$50 per capita would be in the interest of their industry, has therefore drawn forth severe condemnation from a portion of the press and people of the Pacific province. Still, as previously stated in these columns, there is quite an influential section of the community who do not look with disfavor upon the Chinese. This section, though not numerically large, represents a very considerable portion of the wealth of the province, and includes the large employers of labor in mining, fishery and other industrial interests. The popular will, however, as voiced by the large majority of the people, is decidedly opposed to the Chinese, and would view with marked disfavor any attempt to mitigate the severity of the laws intended to restrict Chinese immigration. Those who earn their living in any employment to which the Chinese may be admitted, look upon the Mongolian as a competitor from whom they should be protected, while to the citizens generally the presence of the Chinaman is distasteful. On the other hand "John" is only tolerated or desired by the large employers of labor in certain lines, because he furnishes a cheap industrial population.

### CANADA'S MINERAL WEALTH.

It is reported from Ottawa that the Government has decided to abolish the duty on mining machinery. This will be good news to those interested in the mining industry. It is claimed that Canada possesses greater undeveloped mineral wealth than any country in the world. When we think of the vastness of the territory included in the Dominion of Canada, covering half a continent, and spreading over about 3,500,000 square miles of largely undeveloped

territory, one will be inclined to admit the probability of the assertion, almost without inquiring into the mineral resources of the country. But when it is considered that immense stretches of this vast region are known as mineral territories, and that more or less mineral wealth is found in almost every portion of Canada, the truth of the assertion can hardly be doubted.

Commencing with the lower provinces, Nova Scotia, including Cape Breton, is known to be rich in gold, iron, gypsum, and vast coal fields, etc. New Brunswick has mines of coal, iron, lead, asphalt, and other coarser minerals. Quebec has copper, lead, iron, valuable phosphate mines, gold, etc. The great province of Ontario, covers an area of nearly 200,000 square miles, a large portion of which is considered chiefly valuable for its mineral resources, especially in the western and northwestern portion of the province. The principal minerals of Ontario are gold, silver, copper, iron, petroleum, salt, phosphate, lead, gypsum and a long list of less valuable minerals. In silver, copper and iron Ontario is especially rich. The great Lake Superior territory of the province has been famous for its wealth in those minerals for years, but development has not been in keeping with the resources of the country. A number of silver mines are working in the Thunder Bay territory, but the ore from these mines is sent from one to two thousand miles for smelting which entails a heavy expense, and prevents the utilizing of lower grade ores. A smelter would prove a capital investment in this district. Westward there is the Lake of the Woods district claimed to be rich in gold and other minerals. Even the prairie divisions of Canada have their minerals. Manitoba has coal in the southwest, and vast deposits of the finest iron ores in the Lake Winnipeg region, salt in different sections, indications of petroleum, lime and other stone, etc. The coal fields of the territories west of Manitoba are perhaps the most extensive in the world. The exact boundaries of these western coal beds are not known, but the outcroppings occur hundreds of miles apart. Vast beds of petroleum exist in the north, and further discoveries have recently been reported from southwestern Alberta. Gold is found in streams flowing eastward from the Rocky Mountains. There is a vast territory yet largely unknown, stretching across the continent to the north of the settled portions, which may yet show great mineral wealth. Lastly, there is the province of British Columbia, with its area of nearly 350,000 square miles, which may be considered all a mineral territory and where almost everything in the mineral line may be found, though hardly anything outside of the coal mines of Vancouver Island and the placer gold deposits of the interior have been developed to any extent. The iron deposits of Texada Island have been worked to some extent, but the ore is carried to the State of Washington for reduction. British Columbia has coal, iron, gold, silver, lead, copper, mercury, platinum, antimony, plumbago, mica, and numerous other minerals in abundance, awaiting development.

Every encouragement should be given to the development of this great heritage, so only through development can it become the source of wealth to the country which it should be. The tax upon mining machinery can therefore be well dispensed with.