

under the quiet manipulation of evil men, and the insidious influences of newspapers professing to be devoted to the interests of the farmers, some of these associations are displaying strong agrarian and socialistic tendencies. We know this to be a fact from the testimony of the president of the New York State Farmers' Alliance, who, after a recent visit to Kansas, said that in that State "the leaders of the Alliance are half anarchists," and that the excesses into which they have led their party have already started a new organization, in line with the Alliance as it exists in New York and other conservative States. He predicts that the better class of farmers in the West who were identified with the Alliance movement will soon withdraw from that organization and form a new and better farmers' league. It was the political mountebankism of the dishonest men who obtained the control of the Kansas Alliance that resulted in the election to Congress of a man whose only and great claim for the suffrages of the electors was that he did not wear socks. Upon this principle we suppose that the only man who could have beaten this one would have been one who could pride himself upon the fact that he did not wear breeches.

We do not know just how far the fact is applicable to Canada, but it is a fallacy exposed by the recent census of the United States that farmers form a majority of the population of that country, the figures showing that three tenths of the whole population live in cities and towns. But whether this is true regarding Canada or not, if Canadian farmers desire to form themselves into similar organizations, if they hope to accomplish much or any real good for themselves, they should carefully tyle the doors of their lodge rooms against such cowans and eavesdroppers as are sent to them by such mischief-makers as Cartwright, Wiman and Laurier, and against such bitter anti-Canadian newspapers as those we have here alluded to.

THE EXPIRY OF BRITISH TREATIES.

THE expiry of British treaties with certain other nations is exciting great interest in that country in considering the action that should be taken with respect of negotiations for their renewal or otherwise. The treaty with Bulgaria expired a few days ago—January 13th; that with France expired on February 1st; with Montenegro on May 14th; with Portugal on June 22nd; all of this year, and that with Spain on June 30, 1892. It is not probable that any of these treaties will be renewed. They all give favorable conditions to British manufacturing industries; and all the nations interested have swung or are swinging into line under the banner of Protection. The outlook is not at all promising for British trade.

French political sentiment is strongly against any commercial treaties whatever, and in favor of a maximum and minimum tariff, by which there will be two schedules regulating the admission of imports. In the maximum schedule the duties levied will be applied to goods received from these countries that have not made concessions in their tariffs thought to be advantageous to French interests, while in the other the duties will be on a much lower scale, to be paid on merchandise from countries whose import duties are favorable to French productions. The tariffs in other European countries are also high,

most of them being of the protective character distinguishing that of the United States.

The manufacturing and commercial interests of Britain are greatly exercised regarding the expiry of the existing treaties. If they could induce the different countries to renew them, or to introduce into any treaties that may be made the favored nation's clause it would be all right for them, and they would not feel the pinch so severely. But the action of France indicates the direction of sentiment, and Britain sees that a large loss of trade is inevitable. The question is "What shall we do to be saved?" The matter is being discussed among the working classes, for they see that unless something is done to prevent it there must be a lowering of wages or loss of work. Manufacturers are facing the proposition as to how long they can continue in business in the presence of free importation of the cheaper wares of other countries, and commercial men generally are discussing the propriety of insisting upon the Government adopting some retaliatory legislation by which Britain will do to other nations as other nations do to Britain.

A full discussion was recently had at a meeting of the Keighly Chamber of Commerce. Many of the speakers were in favor of retaliation. It was shown that the French tariff regulated by the commercial treaty of 1882 had inflicted serious injury upon the textile trades of Yorkshire; that supposing that only the minimum feature of the proposed French Tariff was applied to Britain, in the case of classes of fabrics wherein wood predominated, there would be an increase of two per cent. which, although small, would have the effect of practically killing the trade. In dress goods where cotton predominated the advance would be six per cent. On certain worsted goods, where the existing duty is nineteen per cent., the minimum under the new classification would be thirty-two per cent. It was further stated that even if the increase under the minimum scale were imposed it would mean the total extinction of Britain's woolen trade with France. In the face of these facts commercial retaliation was openly advocated.

Alluding to the situation the *Manchester Textile Recorder* says: "It is obvious that the subject is beset with difficulties on every hand, and that it is indispensably necessary that constant and careful consideration should be given to it without delay." The moment Britain begins to lay a duty upon manufacturers, or upon anything produced in that country, in compliance with demands such as we allude to, and which does not seem improbable, the flood gates will be opened upon the great question that Mr. Cobden fondly thought he had settled forty years ago. Protection is not an impossibility in Britain; she will be forced to adopt it in self defence.

ENGLAND LOSING HER GRIP.

THE fact has frequently been alluded to in these pages that the British market was being flooded with the textile products of France and Germany, while British factories were being closed in consequence thereof, and British workmen thrown into enforced idleness. About the only answer the Free Trade journals could make to this is that although Protection prevails in both France and Germany, through that protection the wages of the workmen have been depressed to a point where