

PROTECTION DOES IT.

In "The Growing Time" department of The Globe appears the following :

The specific duty on oilcloth was removed at the last tariff revision, and this made a material reduction in the amount of protection, but the Dominion Oilcloth Co. promptly set to work to meet the new conditions. A serious factor in the cost of production is the amount of labor required to stamp or print patterns on the cloth in the ordinary method, that is, by hand. The company found that a printing machine had just been perfected to do this work, and immediately bought one. It then became necessary to erect a building for the new printing machine, and to remodel the rest of the factory to suit it. Altogether about \$75,000 was spent in the past year and a-half on new plant. This printing machine, which is a beautiful piece of mechanism, will do as much in one minute as a man can do in an hour; that is to say, that the new method is 60 times as effective as the old. This, however, has not lessened the number of employes, which remains about the same as two years ago, namely, 160, because the enormous increase in the capacity of the plant has necessitated the employment of more manual labor in all subsidiary departments.

The change of duty on oilcloth spoken of was from specific to ad valorem, and the rate of protection is now 30 per cent. There is no free trade in this.

It also has the following to say regarding the manufacture of woollens and woolen goods :

The Dominion Woolen Manufacturing Company, whose mill at Beauharnois employs about 200 hands, has increased its business by 15 to 20 per cent. This is largely due to the Klondike trade, but to some extent also to improvement in general business. It is too early yet to say what effect the preferential tariff will have upon woolen factories. The Excelsior Woolen Mill is practically a new industry. It occupies the premises of the Globe Woolen Mill Company, which made a disastrous failure about three years ago, owing to bad management. The plant was bought in by some of the creditors, and completely remodelled and modernized, and the business was resumed under the name of the Excelsior Company. For the past nine months the mill has been running full time, employing 110 hands, and the output for the first year will reach \$200,000. The prices obtained are said to be low, as, owing to the preferential tariff, Huddersfield goods are coming in and interfering with the business. One of the company expressed the opinion that the Government should have made the woolen duty 35 instead of 30 per cent. The company is engaged in the manufacture of the better class of goods, and, in common with other mills, finds that the demand for such goods is increasing, as the people are sick and tired of low-quality goods.

The Fit-Reform Clothing Company is a new industry. For many years Messrs. E. A. Small & Co. were in the wholesale clothing business, but finally came to the conclusion that there would be money in making what are practically custom-made clothes on a large scale and selling direct to the customer. They therefore erected a large four-story brick building, 130 feet deep, with 90 feet front, at the corner of Beaver Hall Hill and Latour street. In a year and a half the Fit-Reform business has increased so largely, and the prospects are so encouraging, that they intend to confine themselves to it entirely, and are rapidly getting out of the ordinary clothing business, which, of course, is being absorbed by other firms, and adding to their trade. The Fit-Reform Company employ about 450 hands, the most of whom were brought from the United States, as it was impossible to obtain here the necessary amount of skilled labor in that particular line.

This speaks well for the woolen industry of Montreal. The Globe shows that under the preferential tariff and an ad valorem duty, cheap, shoddy goods are being brought into

Canada that ought to be kept out. But protection keeps the mill going.

Speaking of an important industry at St. John's, Que., The Globe says :

There was no change in the duty on silk but the Corticelli Silk Company of St. John's finds that its business has increased fully 25 per cent. in the last year. This is certainly an indication of "good times," as its products are luxuries and not necessities. The company manufacture trimmings, threads and braids, but it is also now experimenting on piece goods. For the convenience of its customers it imports and sells piece goods, but it has now at work a few looms on this class of cloth. If the experiments turn out successful the company will at once enlarge its business by manufacturing instead of importing piece goods. It was in this "tentative" way the company originally started at St. John's on thread, and the town may be sure of an extensive addition to its industries if the experiments with these looms end satisfactorily.

No change of duty—silks, 25 per cent.

The Globe alludes to the iron industry of Montreal as follows :

The Laurie Engine Company report that for the past six months its business exceeded the corresponding period of the previous year by 50 per cent. It now employed 200 men, as compared with 150 three years ago, and is working a night as well as a day gang. It extended its premises a few years ago, but now for the first time the company is working up to its full capacity, and the prospects are that business will increase still more in the next six months.

The Montreal Rolling Mills Company also show progress during the last two years. The company has made considerable additions to its plant, the capacity of wire mill and wire nail machinery having been increased by at least one-third. Of course, the year 1896 was a dull year in expectation of tariff changes, and the output was smaller than in 1895, but, making allowance for this, the output in 1897 was, relatively, larger than in 1896, and the production of 1898 will exceed the previous years. In comparison with 1896 the value of the product will be about 25 per cent. less, that is to say, that owing to the changes in the tariff and the great competition that exists now in the manufacture of iron and steel, the consumer is getting the goods produced by this company on the average very nearly one quarter less than was paid a couple of years ago. At the same time the output of the mill has increased, and the number of employes have increased from 550 in 1896 to about 600 this year. The pay roll, however, has increased in a greater proportion. The scale of wages has remained the same, but the men are paid strictly by piece-work in the rolling mills, and as the output of the mills has increased, the total wages paid will be larger.

The Canada Iron Furnace Company, the Montreal Car Wheel Company and the Montreal Pipe Foundry Company have sprung from the Radnor forges near Three Rivers. The iron found there has been worked for 200 years, but owing to the energy of Messrs. Drummond, McCall & Company, the industry in the past fifteen years has grown to huge proportions, and these three companies now employ between 1,100 and 1,200 hands. As compared with two years ago the number of employes is about the same. The furnaces which are at Radnor have an annual output of about \$300,000, which is the same as two years ago. The car wheel company, whose works are at Lachine, shows a slight decrease in business, but the pipe foundry, also at Lachine, is working about one-third more than two years ago.

Mr. Edgar McDougall, manager of the Caledonia Iron Works, said that in the past two years they had completely overhauled all their plant; that they had twice as many men employed, and were doing twice as much work as two years ago—that, in fact, he was too busy to afford time to enter into particulars.

The James Cooper Manufacturing Company, manufacturing mining machinery, has doubled the capacity of its machine