

of Canada's consumption of oranges, which amounts to about 40,000,000 annually, Jamaica only sends 4,000,000, and she would certainly supply more with better transportation facilities. So far, the Canadian preference of 33 1-3 per cent. has not been sufficient to attract any quantity of sugar from this island, but the committee expresses the hope that the trade will increase with the abolition of the bounties. The committee hesitates to suggest the possibility of any rebate of duty being granted by the island in favor of any of Canada's products.

Canada continues to increase her purchases from the United States despite the tariff advantages accorded Great Britain in the fiscal system of that country. During the nine months of the present fiscal year, for which details are available, British North America showed a larger increase in its purchases from the United States than did any other political division of America as compared with the corresponding periods of 1900 and 1901. Our total exports to British North America increased from \$69,763,595 in the nine months of 1900, and \$77,894,138 in the same period of 1901, to \$80,999,004 in the corresponding months of the current year. The continued growth in our commerce with Canada is the more remarkable when it is remembered that ever since April, 1897, the United Kingdom has enjoyed tariff advantages in the Canadian market, the discrimination in her favor having ranged from 12½ per cent. in that year to 33½ per cent. from and after July 1, 1900. Yet the exports from the United States to British North America have increased year by year, and our total exports to that market in the nine months under review are \$11,235,409, or 16 per cent., in excess of those for the same period of 1900, and \$3,104,866, or 4 per cent., in excess of those of the corresponding months of last year. A comparison of our exports to Canada in the first nine months of the present fiscal year with those of the corresponding months immediately preceding the reduction in the Canadian tariff in favor of Great Britain shows that our exports to Canada meantime have increased about 75 per cent., being for the earlier period \$46,752,958, and for the nine months ending with March, 1902, \$80,999,004. —Bradstreet's.

The attention of manufacturers who may desire to extend their export trade to the South African market is directed to the business announcement of Mr. G. Glenson Smith, of Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony, which appears in page 32, who offers his services as manufacturer's agent for the sale of such Canadian products as may be entrusted to his care. Mr. Smith was well known in Canada before his removal to Africa.

The Committee of the Cobden Club has issued its report for the year 1901. Three events affecting questions of tariff and trade are singled out for comment—the completion of the political and fiscal union of the Australian colonies; the imposition of taxes on sugar and coal; and the submission to the German Reichstag of a new tariff highly protectionist in character. In each case, says Commercial Intelligence, the committee discern factors favorable as well as unfavorable to Free Trade, viz., the abolition of all tariff barriers between the federating colonies; the declaration of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach that he had no intention of interfering with the Free Trade system; and the opposition of a large section of the German people to the high-tariff policy. The factors unfavorable to Free Trade are dealt with at length. Neither the sugar tax nor the coal tax are held to be desirable or

necessary. It is remarked "that the £7,000,000 that the two taxes were estimated to yield could have been raised by increasing the existing taxes on beer, spirits and tobacco, and it is obvious that the increase of an existing tax involves a smaller interference with trade than the imposition of an entirely new tax." Not only in Germany, but also in Italy, the committee believe, the popular demand for reform in the direction of Free Trade is growing in strength, as an indication of which they mention the formation of a Free Trade League among the wine growers of Piedmont, who demand "an agrarian programme based upon justice, and from all protectionism." Further, the committee detect numerous signs that the Protectionist policy is provoking serious criticism in the United States, but at present (says the report) the movement is largely confined to an agitation for treaties of reciprocity, and the idea of complete free trade has probably as yet very little hold upon the American mind. At the end of the report the committee discuss the question of countervailing duties raised by the signing of the Brussels Convention, and declare their intention to oppose to the utmost of their ability the ratification of the Convention. Fifteen new members were elected during the year, and the total membership is now close on 480.

On May 19th the United States House of Representatives passed what is known as the Gardner Eight Hour bill without a word of debate and without a word of protest. The Washington correspondent of the Iron Age says that the extraordinary expedition with which this important measure was rushed through, under a suspension of the rules, constitutes a remarkable commentary upon the heedlessness so often shown by Congress to the protests of the great business interests of the country, which, as in the present case, are vitally affected by the projected legislation. The bill provides that each and every contract hereafter made to which the United States, any Territory, or the District of Columbia is a party, and every such contract made for or on behalf of the United States, or any Territory, or said District, which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics, shall contain a provision that no laborer or mechanic doing any part of the work contemplated by the contract, in the employ of the contractor or any sub-contractor contracting for any part of said work contemplated, shall be required or permitted to work more than eight hours in any one calendar day; and each and every such contract shall stipulate a penalty for each violation of the provision directed by this act of \$5 for each laborer or mechanic for each and every calendar day in which he shall labor more than eight hours. It is further provided that nothing in this act shall apply to contracts for transportation by land or water, nor shall the provisions and stipulations in this act provided for affect so much of any contract as is to be performed by way of transportation, or for such material as may usually be bought in open market, whether made to conform to particular specifications or not. The bill is now before the Senate. It is the most sweeping and radical measure limiting the hours of labor that has ever been introduced in Congress. If it should become a law it would entail incalculable inconvenience and loss, even upon the working men, for it would be very difficult under this proposed law for the Government to place orders for supplies or for structural work of any kind.

A Nova Scotia branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association was organized in Halifax last week, starting with 55 members. Mr. J. R. Henderson, of Henderson & Potts, paint manufacturers, Halifax, was elected President.