

dishonest ones who squeal, those who complain that the "God-made flow of trade" is interfered with. Of course there are many honest importers, and these are numbered among the greatest sufferers from the acts of dishonest importers. It cannot be otherwise, for if the dishonest man evades the payment of the full duty imposed by the law, and the honest man pays it, the latter is at a disadvantage with his dishonest competitor. The honest importer has every reason to desire that the laws be fully enforced upon all alike. So, too, with the manufacturer. Under existing laws the manufacturer is protected in his business against the unfair competition of foreign manufacturers, and, having invested his capital in his business under the contract made with him by the Government by these laws, he has a right to expect and demand a faithful enforcement of them. If the laws are faithfully enforced the manufacturer and the honest importer both know just how their affairs are affected; but if they are not faithfully enforced—if dishonest merchants import merchandise upon which fraudulent values are placed, the manufacturer and the honest importer are at a fearful disadvantage which will inevitably result in ruin unless the evil is abated. If our tariff system is wrong, and if our method of raising revenue by import duties upon foreign merchandise is not the better way, then let those who favor a change go to work to effect it by fair, honest and legitimate means, not by fraud upon the Government and to the woful disadvantage of honest men. But as long as our present laws stand, the Government is to be commended for enforcing them, and it should be unhesitatingly condemned if it did not do just this thing. The methods and machinery for faithfully performing its duty in this direction are details which experience has suggested as being necessary, and they are such that they may be changed, modified, altered or dispensed with as experience may suggest.

One of the most cowardly features of these unceasing attacks upon the Government, because of the enforcement of the Customs' laws, is that they are almost always vague and indefinite, and made in ways to which it is practically impossible for the Government to make refuting reply. If efforts were made to do so the officials would find but very little time to attend to their proper duties. If these charges have any foundation in fact, there are ways by which those who may consider themselves wronged may obtain redress. One way to do this is through the established courts, and another is by making direct charges against the Government upon the floor of the House of Commons while Parliament is in session. The people of Canada, represented by their Parliament, will never permit any department of their Government, or any of their civil servants, to systematically cheat, wrong or defraud any man; and the life of that Government would be exceedingly brief, ending in ignominy, if such could be shown to be the case. Why, then, do the *Globe* and other papers give currency to outrageous lies? They might discover them to be lies if they desired to do so; and if their stories are true they know that a production of the proof would speedily rectify the wrong.

In a recent issue of this journal we gave a *resumé* of the facts developed in the Smith and Patterson case, in Montreal, where a lot of watch cases had been seized by the Customs officials for undervaluation. This was as clear a case of fraud as was ever brought to light, and yet, because of a technicality,

the importers virtually gained their case. As the law stands, it is required that the market value of merchandise in the country where manufactured shall be the standard of value for the payment of duty; yet because it was shown that these watch cases were not being offered for sale in the country of production, although they were listed at a certain price below which it would have been impossible to have sold them there, it was decided by the court that they had no specific market value there, and, therefore, their import value would be just whatever the importers might be pleased to make it. Perhaps this is good law, and if it is the Government must abide by it; but it is certainly at variance with the spirit and intention of those who made the law; for it prevents the possibility of preventing the flooding of Canada with the surplus products of other countries. This judgment is to the effect that when foreign manufacturers form combinations, and declare that certain articles shall not be sold in their country except at certain high prices, such actions place the articles in the position of having no market value there for home consumption, and therefore they may be entered at Canadian ports at any prices which the importers may think proper. Of course the effect of such a judgment by a competent Canadian court, if generally acted upon, will necessitate proper changes in the Customs' laws.

AS TO NICKEL.

THE United States Navy Department has already purchased from this country 4,536 tons of nickel matte, containing about one-fifth that amount of nickel. With nickel-steel armor definitely resolved upon for ship armor in the States, and the nickel alloy likely to enter into other manufactures of steel for Government purposes, a continuous increase in the demand for the metal may be expected. Gun shields and the guns themselves, projectiles, engines, the hulls of vessels, and, in fact, almost all the steel used, may possibly hereafter receive a percentage of this metal. In the merchant marine and the various applications of steel in the mechanic arts the same introduction of this alloy may go on, especially should the supply prove practically inexhaustible, thus bringing down the price, particularly should the processes of treating the ore also be cheapened. As the *New York Times* points out, Canada has already eclipsed New Caledonia in the production of nickel, and the reports of its discovery here and there in Provinces as widely separated as Nova Scotia and Ontario indicate what may be expected.—*London Advertiser*.

A recent editorial in the *Empire* alluded to what had already been recorded in these pages concerning the sale of the Bizard nickel mine at Sudbury for \$2,000,000, and the value of our nickel deposits was very favorably commented upon. We were told that Secretary Tracy, of the Navy Department reported in favor of nickel steel for American ships at a time when the British, German and Italian Governments were all proposing to obtain this valuable metal; that the fact that the only other nickel territory is New Caledonia, which is under French control, and that it is all important to England to keep a controlling influence in our great reserves. We have time and again urged the great importance and value to Canada of these nickel deposits. Admitting that British capitalists have obtained possession of the Bizard mine, it should be remembered that this mine is but one of several, the largest and most important of which belongs to American capitalists, and that they are working it very extensively in procuring nickel