

less to resist. Yet this region is a portion of the State of Iowa where crops never fail and where nature has done everything to encourage a prosperous population.

Unless present tendencies be arrested the future of the small towns is extremely discouraging; and it is very doubtful whether any material change in existing conditions will soon occur. The superior economies of the factory system of manufacture will doubtless continue to operate unfavorably to small industries. One of these economies is the cheap rates of transportation given to large producers and to great competitive centres. The grand march of improvement which is creating many splendid cities will go on unchecked, but for these the villages will be only feeders. These tendencies have long been noticed; indeed, it would have been impossible to travel extensively throughout the West and Northwest without being struck on every hand by the evidences of arrested development in nearly every hamlet. It is not believed that any check in these tendencies was noticeable prior to the panic of 1893.

BRITAIN UNDER FREE TRADE.

On a recent occasion at Sarnia, Ont., Dr. Beattie Nesbitt, of Toronto, made an address in which he discussed the value of the National Policy to all classes of Canadians. Alluding to the desire of Mr. Laurier that Canada should adopt free trade such as they have in Great Britain, he said:—How do they propose to establish it here? Well, Mr. Laurier told us, after the manner of Peel—a little at a time. I am not a free trader. I do not profess to be able to entertain you with beautiful words; to hypnotise you with fine spun theories. I do not understand how to talk fairly to you about the exigencies of commerce; the interdependence of continental exchange, and at the same time rob you of your market and take the bread from the mouth of your son who works in the factory. I am nothing but a plain protectionist. I tell you that I want to see you buy your plough from a Canadian, and I want to see a Canadian get your money. Then when the plough is worn out some of us will have the money. But if you buy your plough from a Yankee he gets your money, and when the plough is worn out neither you nor I have anything. This doctrine may not be orthodox to our Reform friends, but it is the same that Adam Smith, the founder of political economy, taught in his "Wealth of Nations," where he says:—"Whatever tends to diminish in any country the number of artificers and manufacturers tends to diminish the home market—the most important of all markets—for the rude produce of the soil, and thereby to still further discourage agriculture." But Adam Smith was not writing of the present day. He had no opportunity of examining into the condition of the farmers under free trade as they have it in England to-day, and that there are those who differ widely from him as to the manner in which free trade will affect the farmers is seen by the words of Mr. William Mulock, M.P., in his speech to the electors of North York, where he says that "if they will send him to Ottawa they will help to capture the protectionists' citadel, and they will have no more of abandoned farms, but a wave of prosperity will sweep over the country." Mr. Wilfrid Laurier is also full of enthusiasm over the good times coming for the farmer if their policy is adopted. Our Reform

friends say that the farmer is suffering from the lack of population; that if we had free trade it would be cheaper to live here, and we would have a great influx of immigration. England produces actually less food with thirty-five millions of a population than she did when she had seventeen millions of a population. Further than this, her importance as an agricultural nation has been continually on the decline. In 1867 her wheat area was four million acres; in 1887 two millions. In 1868 England produced one hundred and twenty-eight million bushels of wheat, and imported sixty-one and a half millions. In 1888, after twenty years of agricultural prosperity under free trade, she produced only sixty-six and a half million bushels, not half what she raised twenty years before; and she imported one hundred and thirty-two million bushels, more than double what she imported twenty years before. Thirty years ago the English farmer sold two-thirds of the wheat consumed. Twenty years of free trade and the shoe is on the other foot. The English farmer sold only one-third of the wheat eaten by his own people. The peon in Argentina, the serf in Russia, and the countless millions of down-trodden humanity in India, sold the other two-thirds. So much has free trade done for the English agricultural laborer that Mr. William Ewart Gladstone said to President Garfield that he never knew an agricultural laborer to rise out of the condition in which he was born.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The year 1894 may, we think, be fairly looked upon as the commencement of the period which will witness a great expansion in the mining industry in British Columbia, says Vancouver News Advertiser. Although it has been to a great extent a period of preliminary work, of exploitation and prospecting of the vast treasures of gold and silver which are now known to be hidden in various districts of the Province, the actual production of the precious metals has reached a very considerable total. We hope in the course of a short time to furnish authentic reports of the actual production of gold and silver during 1894. Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to observe that the shipments of gold dust and bullion through the ordinary banking and express channels show an increase over those of 1893; that they were of a larger amount than in any year since 1890, and that the year 1894 is the only one that has shown an increase over that of its predecessors since 1881. The tide has evidently turned and, without taking a too sanguine a view of the prospects, there is good reason to believe that the present year will witness an extraordinary increase in the value of the gold dust bullion, base bullion and gold and silver ores and concentrates exported from British Columbia.

Mr. E. Coatsworth, M.P., of Toronto, has presented a bill in the Dominion Parliament which will be of special interest to organized labor. He proposes to ask Parliament to enact that whenever any association or union of workmen has heretofore adopted or shall hereafter adopt or use any label, trademark, term, design, device, or form of advertisement for the purpose of distinguishing its products, it shall be unlawful to counterfeit such distinguishing mark, to sell or offer to sell goods bearing the