

manufacturing industry and the laboring men employed in it :—

There is no improvement in the tinsplate trade, and great distress exists throughout South Wales. A correspondent, writing to one of the Welsh daily papers, says : Factory after factory is closed, and the reasons are not far to seek. American consumption has fallen off by about one-third of its normal quantity, and not only this it threatens ultimately to do without the famous Welsh product. Again, strenuous efforts are being made on the Continent to be self-supporting in regard to the quantity used. True, they have not in either case attained the goal of their ambition. In the meanwhile efforts are being made to start new markets. It is fondly hoped that the commercial tide will flow from the East to save the stranded tinsplate barque from falling to pieces owing to the receding Western waters. There is no doubt that if the output of plates in Wales is to be kept up to anything like its usual average makers will be obliged to use all their energy in opening up new markets. It is no good looking to the States for all our support ; we must have more strings to the bow. The United States have now laid the foundations for a tinsplate industry of their own. It is true that it is only yet in its infancy, but there is little doubt that it will grow, until ultimately they will be able to supply their own demands, if not be able to go into open market.

Also what the Textile Mercury, published at Manchester, England, has to say about wages in the cotton trade :—

A General Committee meeting of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners decided on Friday of last week to issue circulars to all members of the Federation asking whether they were in favor of notice being given of a 5 per cent. reduction in operatives' wages, providing that four-fifths of the spindles of the Federated and Bolton Employers' Association sign an agreement for that purpose ; and whether they were prepared to stop their mills to enforce the reduction, 14 days' notice to be given.

The Globe cannot be blind to the labor situation in Great Britain. Only a few days ago it published a press cablegram from London which read as follows :—

The strike of bootmakers has been extending throughout the past week, until to-day there are 200,000 idle operators in that branch of industry. The strike affects all the factories in England except those in Stafford, Norwich, and Bristol. Some of the London unions are granting ten shillings a week to the strikers. The employers are not in the least anxious, declaring that they have enormous stocks yet unsold. Nevertheless, they are preparing to protect themselves by the employment of American labor-saving machinery.

Surely the laboring man in Great Britain could not have been in such painful straits under protection fifty years ago as now confronts him under free trade.

### FREE TRADE AS THEY HAVE IT IN BRITAIN.

Has the National Policy made you rich?—Toronto Globe.

But recently Mr. Laurier, the leader of the free trade party in Canada, in a political speech made in Montreal, defined the position of his party very clearly as follows :—

Upon the trade policy I need not tell you that we stand at the very antipodes of the Conservative party. The Conservative party believes in protection ; all their hope is in protection. The Liberal party believes in free trade on broad lines, such as exists in Great Britain, and their immediate object is a revenue tariff—a tariff to be derived

from customs, but which will levy no duties except for the purposes of revenue. Upon the question of principle there can be no compromise. We stand here against protection and in favor of a customs tariff based upon the principles of revenue and nothing else.

We are all familiar with the fact that the party of protection in the United States under the policy of McKinleyism determined to establish in that country a tinsplate industry. We are also acquainted with the fact that that effort was eminently successful. And we know that the intention was to give additional occupation to American capital and American labor. The United States had always drawn its supplies of tinsplate from Great Britain, and millions of dollars were sent there annually to pay for that article. Under McKinleyism the industry became well established, a consequence being that the industry in Wales, where it had been carried on to its fullest extent, became demoralized, great distress ensuing to the work-people employed in it. The British Trade Journal has the following to say regarding the situation :—

There is no improvement in the tinsplate trade, and great distress exists throughout South Wales. A correspondent, writing to one of the Welsh daily papers, says :—Factory after factory is closed, and the reasons are not far to seek. American consumption has fallen off by about one-third of its normal quantity, and not only this, it threatens ultimately to do without the famous Welsh product. Again strenuous efforts are being made on the Continent to be self-supporting in regard to the quantity used. True, they have not in either case attained the goal of their ambition. In the meantime efforts are being made to start new markets. It is fondly hoped that the commercial tide will flow from the East to save the stranded tinsplate barque from falling to pieces owing to the receding Western waters. Cape Colony, India, the Indian Archipelago, and the Eastern shores of the Pacific are thought to be suitable places. The same correspondent suggests we should turn our attention to another portion of the globe where, ultimately, very probably a great trade could be done. He refers to the Grecian Archipelego and the countries washed by the Eastern waters of the Mediterranean, especially Palestine and Syria. Very probably a very profitable canning trade may be started there. There is no doubt that if the output of plates in Wales is to be kept up to anything like its usual average makers will be obliged to use all their energy in opening up new markets. The United States have now laid the foundations for a tinsplate industry of their own. It is true that it is only yet in its infancy, but there is little doubt that it will grow.

The Globe and Mr. Laurier and their party friends may say that it was real mean of the Yankees to build up a big industry in their country at such a great cost to the Welsh industry, but they should remember that McKinleyism was legislation intended to be in favor of American industries, but not necessarily against foreign industries. The Globe asks, "Has the National Policy made you rich?" An answer to this is, that certainly as far as the tinsplate industry is concerned it has made the United States rich. And this is a lesson for Canada. Mr. Laurier points with pride to "free trade as they have it in Great Britain" and wants Canada to adopt the same system. As we well know the tinsplate industry in the United States, under their National Policy, is in a flourishing condition : and, as the British Trade Journal—an ultra free trade paper says, the free trade as they have it in Great Britain can't keep the Welsh tinsplate trade from demoralization and ruin.