

and subjects of the most favored nation. But over Chinese immigration the United States has secured control, and even a suspensive power; but this control applies only to laborers, and its exercise must be "reasonable," a term vague enough to afford materials for dispute. American legislation, representing Chinese laborers, may stop short of the ultimate step of a suspension of immigration. Laws for the regulation and limitation of these laborers may be passed. Against personal maltreatment and abuse, from which some Chinese emigrants have previously suffered, Chinese laborers, once in the States, are necessarily to be protected. The mildness or severity of the application of these remedies will depend upon the spirit of the legislators at Washington; and that again will depend upon the feeling of the country towards this class of immigrants. The possibility of its proving desirable to check or prohibit this immigration is clearly admitted in these stipulations.

—The property, real and personal, held by the charitable institutions of the State of New York has a value of \$35,000,000; of which \$6,900,000 is in State institutions; \$6,200,000 is held by cities and counties, and \$21,000,000 by incorporated associations. The total expenditure on these institutions, last year, was \$8,000,000; the total number of inmates, 44,700. Truly do wealth, poverty and misery march side by side. The last four years saw a large increase of the insane: 400 each year. In connection with the care of these unfortunates, the Governor complains of something that "seems like a profligate use of the public funds;" special reference being made to the Buffalo asylum, which cost \$1,250,000. A reformatory for women, such as Ontario possesses, is said to be much wanted.

BUSINESS MENS' VIEWS.

We are favoured with a letter from one of the leading wholesale houses in Canada in reference to our recent articles on "THE STOREKEEPER'S PRESENT DUTY" and upon "SYSTEM IN BUSINESS." We make an extract:—We quite concur in your remarks, which are to the point. Periodical closing of books and taking stock is a vital necessity to a successful business, for this reason among others: Very often, a season which a storekeeper expects to turn out well, will result otherwise. The causes are the too frequent cutting of prices by clerks, the unnoticed and insidious increase in the expense of conducting the business. Thus, like a candle burning at both ends, havoc is made in the profits by a bigger out-go and a smaller income. By frequent stock-taking one can ascertain this and have a stop put to it. For lack of this, many merchants go on doing business from year to

year, imagining that they are doing well, when the reverse is true.

In the case of a merchant having a large capital and good credit, a season of good profits tends towards general laxity—lax buying; over buying; easy buying; laxity in watching small expenses; lax supervision of the clerks, which leads to deterioration in the whole business. The best and most independent customers leave, an inferior class take their place, the sales decline, and the concern is weakened. When a bad time comes in business, the banker analyses and culls the paper and trouble ensues. One of the greatest dangers, as you remark, to old, wealthy and established business is laxity. This reminds one of the great firm of Sprague of Rhode Island, (one of the firm late senator) which failed with \$7,000,000 of a surplus on paper. The failure proceeded from this very cause, lax supervision and deterioration of assets."

A manufacturer of boots and shoes thus expresses himself: "Business with us is better in some respects, country customers pay better and are learning to buy better, but there are some manufacturers in this country who have not yet learned to sell goods rightly. My storeman would show more discretion in selling than some of them do, whether as to the profit put on them or the kind of people credit is given to."

A Hamilton merchant writes, *a propos* of changes for the better in the granting of credits: "I do not know how it may be in other Canadian cities, but in this market the days of giving liberal lines of credit to Tom, Dick or Harry, and of renewing *ad libitum* for Brown, Jones, or Robinson, are over with, at least for the present. We have some lessons that compel one to be cautious. You will remember, I daresay, the story of Sydney Smith, that wise and witty divine who, when an impecunious bore came to him with a harrowing story, and wound up with the enquiry: 'Have you confidence enough in me to lend me a guinea?' replied: 'Yes, Yes, dear sir, I have all the confidence, but I have not the guinea.'" So it is with not a few wholesale dealers, whose resources have been depleted and their bank lines restricted or home credits curtailed because of losses by bad debts. They have (or say they have) still good nature and confidence enough to give the goods to the weak marks who ask for them, but they have not now the goods to "risk."

MILL NOTES.

It is stated that Messrs. A. L. Grindrod & Co., the proprietors of the Magog Woolen Mills, in the Province of Quebec, finding their present quarters inadequate, have determined to enlarge their works by adding another story, which will enable them to put in a third set of machinery. The contract for the erection of the additional story has been given out and work will commence next month.

The woolen factory at Mitchell, Ont., of Mr. D. H. Dorman, with one set machinery, is manufacturing flannels to the extent of about 1000

yards per week. They are fancy flannels for the wholesale trade.

Mr. B. F. Brook, of Listowel, running one set, uses about 70,000 lbs. wool in the course of a season, making tweeds, blankets, and other woolen goods.

The mill of Messrs. Brown Bros., at Keenansville, which makes principally tweeds, has turned out 37,000 yards this year.

We notice that Messrs. H. B. Rathbun & Son, the lumber manufacturers, of Mill Point, Ont., transact a general banking business in addition to the rather extensive list of manufactures we described last week.

With respect to the knitting factory, to be opened in Galt, we understand that the large woolen mill premises formerly occupied by Messrs. Robinson, has been sold to a joint stock company, numbering among its shareholders, Mr. Jno. Harvey, of Hamilton; Messrs. Robinson, Warnock & Spiers, of Galt, and some Montreal gentlemen. It is intended, we are told, to manufacture knitted underclothing and other fine knitted goods, both woolen and merino, on a very considerable scale.

The A. J. Stevens & Co., factory, at Paris, which used to turn out a good article of oil cloth, is now at a stand still (Mr. Stevens having returned to Scotland) for want of a practical man to conduct it. We are told that the remaining partners are not unwilling to make further expenditure to increase the former out put, provided a good managing man—with, probably, some capital—can be found.

We have a communication respecting the reopening of the Elora Carpet Factory which was said to be probable. Our informant doubts the likelihood of any such move, until the tariff is re-adjusted in such-wise as to be more favorable to domestic manufacture of the kind. The duties now imposed upon the raw material of carpet-weavers are, he states, heavier than upon the manufactured article. Carpet weavers, such as Messrs. J. & A. Armstrong, of Guelph, who are at present working ten looms, have appealed to the Finance Minister in vain, to grant some relief. Now that the Syndicate 'agony' is over, the Government will have more time to listen to such practical suggestions as these.

DOMINION LEGISLATION.

The debate on the Syndicate having practically closed, and the excitement over the Pacific Railway calmed down, members of the House of Commons will give more attention to the usual work of the Session, and the private bills before the House will get their share of attention. The insurance fraternity appear to be easily satisfied; only three companies are asking for changes, and in the present unsatisfactory condition of insurance matters, even the promoters of new companies with one exception have given capitalists a rest. The Accident Company of Canada asks for power to increase its capital and to change its name. The authority of the Dominion is sought by the