

ment. The reason why English capital is not being invested in Canadian iron works is because the so-called "Protection" afforded the industry in Canada does not protect—the duty is not high enough. The whyness of the *Witnesses* "why" consists in the difference between the duty of \$7 a ton, as in the United States, and \$4 a ton, as in Canada. Under a high duty the manufacture of pig iron in the United States has proved an unbounded success, so much so, that American iron manufactured under it can be sold in Canada several dollars a ton cheaper than British iron manufactured under Free Trade. Our present duty is for revenue only—if it was raised to \$7 a ton it would be a protective duty, and under it English capital would quickly seek investment in Canadian iron works.

ONE of the strange association of bedfellows is seen in the amalgamation of the Knights of Labor and the Farmers' Alliance, recently effected in the United States, by which it is hoped certain political ends may be gained. The Knights of Labor hope to have some law passed, by which laboring men will have to work not exceeding eight hours a day; and the Farmers' Alliance hope that some similar law may be passed, by which the farmers may receive high prices for their products regardless of the market value thereof. It looks like an exaggerated case of trying to mix oil and water. The knights want high prices for few hours of labor, and want to pay only very low prices for all the food products they buy; while the farmers, who require their help to work long hours, want to get higher prices for what they sell. The knight wants to sell his labor at high prices, and the farmer wants to hire his labor at low prices. Of course both classes must have what they want. The law must ensure that the farmer receives a dollar a bushel for his potatoes though the knight don't want to pay more than twenty five cents for them; and it must ensure that the knight shall not work more than eight hours a day, though the farmer wants his hired man to put in all the time between four o'clock a.m. and eight p.m. These "combinations" are fearfully and wonderfully made.

In the *Toronto Mail* of Jan. 4th, in reporting the proceedings of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council, was the following:

"A letter was read from the Ontario Government regarding an alleged defective fly-wheel recently erected in the Central Prison, and purchased from a firm in Galt, where the workmen are on strike. The letter said the wheel had been carefully examined and found all right; the Government would be pleased to see a deputation on the subject on Tuesday next. The secretary said he had the affidavits of several men on the subject, and it was decided that the Council should arrange to meet the Government and lay the case fully before the responsible minister."

The "Tuesday next" alluded to was Jan. 7th, but no account of any such interview as here spoken of between the Ontario Government and a deputation from the Trades and Labor Council has since appeared in the *Mail*. If it is a fact that the secretary of the Council has in his possession the affidavits spoken of, they should be produced; but it is probable that the secretary never had any such affidavits, for the reason that they were never made. The production of such affidavits would simplify one phase of this Galt strike business very con-

siderably, and open the way for some of the vicious ones to take up their abode for a time at the Central Prison, where they could observe the perfect working of the machinery which they allege to be defective. By all means let the affidavits be produced.

EIGHTEEN years ago, a commission was appointed in Great Britain, to investigate the question of the probable duration of the coal supply of the kingdom. Some of the results of this official inquiry, given in a paper read before the Statistical Society, suggest some startling probabilities. At the average rate of increase and consumption, which has been going on for the past twenty years, it is computed that the Newcastle coal district will be exhausted in 94 years, the South Wales district in 79 years, and the remainder in even less time.

Regarding this fact the *Electrical Engineer* says:

"Nothing in the future appears more probable than that within the lifetime of persons now living, the industrial supremacy of Great Britain will pass away with the exhaustion of her coal fields. Switzerland, Italy and the Scandinavian peninsula are destined to become the great manufacturing districts of Europe. This extraordinary industrial revolution will be brought about by the transmission and distribution, by electrical means, of the inexhaustible and permanent water power which is now running to waste in those countries. Indeed, this power is already beginning to be successfully utilized by the skill of the electrical engineer. More than a year ago we visited in Switzerland a woolen manufactory of 36,000 spindles, with the usual complement of auxiliary machinery, which was operated wholly by electric power conveyed from a distant stream, deriving its never-failing supply of water from the melting of Alpine snows. To an electrician, the sight was an inspiring one and full of significance. In the new era, which is advancing with such rapid strides, the Swiss Republic may not improbably become the foremost industrial nation of Europe. Nothing is more certain than that the next quarter century will witness amazing changes in the commercial relations of the nations of the earth, in consequence of the development of the conception of the electrical distribution of energy."

DISCUSSING the prospects of iron manufacturing in Canada, the *London, Eng., Iron and Steel Trades' Journal* says:—

"We hear that a well known American engineer has prepared plans for six large blast furnaces, which are to be erected near to Ottawa, and we see no reason why pig iron production on a large and profitable scale should not soon be an important feature of Canadian industry. It is only a matter of time, and we believe that movements now on foot are likely to accelerate the event. The enormous production of pig iron in the United States has now rendered the great Republic practically independent of external supplies of crude iron, and we must be content to accept the inevitable and see Canada also become self supporting in the matter of pig iron. * * When we visited the Ottawa district in the autumn of last year, the work of development of the iron ore mines in the Bristol region was going on steadily, and we now learn that it is intended to smelt the ore in Ottawa, instead of marketing it in the United States as heretofore."

The *Journal* then quotes from Mr. Birkenbine regarding the cost of manufacturing the Bristol ores into iron at Ottawa, which facts have already been displayed in these pages, and says:—

"This is worthy of attention, from the fact that 50,000 tons of pig iron and 250,000 tons of manufactured, cast and wrought