

natural channels, at least when there are strong forces against which it must contend. American manufacturers do not depend solely upon their nearness to Canada to hold this market, the phenomenal reduction which they have been able to make in the cost of producing certain goods of which there is large consumption in the Dominion has been the more important factor. In almost all sorts of steel wares the American has an advantage over the British manufacturer. During the three months to which the previous table refers in 1898 Canada imported steel rails to the value of \$840,944, while in the same period of 1896 the statistician did not think it worth his while to enter the exports in a separate list. The same movement has taken place in other steel products. Canadian manufacturers have felt the effects of American competition, the August, September and October imports of agricultural implements increasing from \$81,373 in 1896 to \$297,845 in the same period of the present year. The principal commodities that have been purchased in larger quantities from the United States since the discriminating tariff, in addition to those above mentioned, have been books, maps, cars, carriages, clocks, watches, naval stores, leather and manufactures, seeds, fruits, hog products, oils, flour, wheat and corn. It will be seen that many of these commodities are never imported from the United Kingdom, and so the increased trade does not represent altogether a displacement of British goods. In some industries the tariff has undoubtedly borne results. The Americans have lost some of their textile trade with Canada. But even here they have held their own better than was expected, and largely for the reason that their products have individuality. They make goods of a pattern and quality which Canadians desire and cannot get, it seems, either in Great Britain or Canada.

MANUFACTURERS AS OFFICE HOLDERS.

There are far too few men of prominence in business who seek suffrages in municipal or parliamentary elections. It is not difficult to find a reason for this. The office of councillor, mayor, or member is filled by such men only at a pecuniary sacrifice. And when merchants or manufacturers are induced by those interested in clean, efficient government to accept a nomination, the treatment accorded them is very often such as to discourage others from following in their footsteps.

An instance of the methods employed to defeat manufacturers aspiring to office is at present to be observed in Hamilton. John Tilden, whose name is familiar to most Canadians, is a candidate for the mayoralty of that city. He is a large employer of labor, some three or four hundred men working in his different shops. It would be an exceptional thing if, manufacturing on an extensive scale, Mr. Tilden had not at some time or other had a difference with his employees. It appears that some eight or ten years ago Mr. Tilden in common with other foundry men had trouble with his moulders. The Trades and Labor Council, considering it their duty to take a hand in the election, has proclaimed Mr. Tilden "an enemy to organized labor and unworthy of being mayor." This action, we understand, is based in the main, if not wholly, on the incident of the moulders' strike.

To anyone unfamiliar with the workings of Trade and Labor Councils, this action is incomprehensible. It is impossible to believe that fair-minded and intelligent workmen would resurrect an old trouble of this kind for election purposes. Unless, however, the Trade and Labor Council of Hamilton is an exception, its utterances cannot be taken as representative of working men's opinions. Our experi-

ence of these councils teaches us that they are usually controlled by a few men, who, in election contests aim to use them to vent personal spleen or to advance other equally objectionable purposes.

We have had occasion recently to comment upon the loose and unbusinesslike manner in which municipal business is very often administered in Canada. The only means of making impossible such occurrences as the disgraceful affair at Brandon, which has been fully noted in these columns, is to place municipal matters in the hands of men who have proved their business competence. We do not wish it to be inferred from this that municipal affairs in Hamilton have been in the past badly managed. Hamilton, it is true, has some difficulties to face, but has, we think, enjoyed better municipal government than most cities in Canada. The lesson to be drawn from the action of the Hamilton Trades and Labor Council is of wide application. Similar incidents have happened in other cities and will probably occur again. They are to be regretted not only because they tend to prevent public offices from being sought by capable men, but because of the disrepute into which they bring the judgment of organized labor.

IMMIGRATION.

After receiving Doukhobors from Russia there is a question of Canada receiving Armenian emigrants. The latter Lamartine described as the Swiss of Turkey; a two-sided prototype in which we may see, as we will, the almost matchless industrial or anybody's *soldato*. It used to be the boast of the United States that it opened its door to the overflow population of all countries; but when first and second-rate emigrant materials were no longer to be had in considerable numbers plausible excuses were framed for shutting the door on the less desirable of the old world populations. Doukhobors and Armenians, the victims of tyranny, excite our sympathy, but neither may be found easy to assimilate with our population. The former carry their notion, originally derived from an English Quaker, against the use of force, so as to lay aside the rod and risk the spoiling of the child, if it can be spoiled in that way. A creed which paralyzes the arm of the State in case of war, to the extent of its prevalence, has a political aspect which makes for impuissance. We may sympathize with the sufferings of the Armenians without being convinced that they are good material to make Canadian settlers of. At the same time we cannot afford to be specially fastidious in the acceptance of immigrants, in which the days of choice are nearly gone. Americans would perhaps make the best available settlers, but after Texas there is no encouragement to settle them in solid masses. In the matter of immigration, the time has come when we must do what we can, not what we would like, if a wider choice were open.

TORONTO IN 1898.

In looking at the conditions of Toronto's trade and comparing them with a very few years ago, there is manifest cause for thankfulness and much that should give us courage. Depression and apathy seem to have disappeared: confidence and enterprise have taken their places. The activity which has characterized the country generally in trade, transportation, manufacture, has been reflected in Toronto in a very marked degree. Our factories are busy and additions are being made to them, our warehouses are actively employed and the results of the year to our financial institutions have been generally, we believe, of a satis-