

to have the duty removed from binder twine, with the result that both the Ontario and Dominion Governments instituted binder twine works in their prisons—that of Ontario at Central Prison, Toronto, that of the Dominion at Kingston Penitentiary, besides which, without any sufficient reasons for doing so, the duty upon the article was reduced from 25 per cent. to 12½. These unwise and unnecessary acts, together with the clamor of the politicians and their claqueurs, had such a depressing effect upon the free industry that capital invested in it became almost paralyzed, many mills forced to close, and those that kept going restricted production, much suffering among the laboring people who found their employment in them, being the consequence.

We are not discussing the question of the necessity of keeping prison convicts employed. They should be employed, and it is the duty of the Government to discover the occupations at which they should labor. But we protest against any system of labor in prisons that throws large quantities of convict made goods upon the market in competition with the products of free labor. If the hangman requires rope let it be made by convict labor. If convicts require shoes, hats and clothing, let these articles be made by them in their prisons. If good roads are required throughout the country, let them be built by convict labor; and let the Government cultivate farms with their convicts, and thereon raise wheat, potatoes, vegetables, cattle and hogs for food for convicts. There are plenty of channels wherein convict labor may be employed advantageously without infringing upon occupations whereby free labor may make its honest living.

As to making exhibits of convict made binder twine, or exhibits of anything else produced by convict labor, at the Toronto Exhibition, it should cease. Such exhibits have been made there heretofore, but not in such a disgusting and offensive manner as that of Mr. Hallam this year. The Fair managers should understand that the manufacturers are not competitors in business against the products of convict labor, neither will they be competitors at the Toronto Fair in such competitive display. The Exhibition Association should choose which class of manufactured products they would like to have displayed at their Fair.

#### *FIAT JUSTITIA.*

Recently, in discussing the sugar schedule of the new United States tariff, alluding to the sins of the Sugar Trust, the Monetary Times said:—

Acceptance by the House of the Senate bill is the final outcome of the struggle over the tariff at Washington. The Sugar Trust has got its way, and respectable journals openly state that this great organization purchased enough votes to secure success. Not many were required. Mr. Wilson believes, on evidence that convinces him, that the Sugar Trust felt so sure of the passage of the sugar schedule as to make it safe for it to buy, and it did buy \$112,000,000 worth of raw sugar, on which he estimates the profit at \$40,000,000. He practically admits, however, that the basis of his calculation is not certain, when he says that with *ad valorem* duties it is not possible to ascertain the direct gains of the sugar monopoly.

If our esteemed contemporary had taken time to consider the facts which it has stated it could not but have seen the ridiculousness of them. It is not to the point to state

that Mr. Wilson promulgated them in his speech in the American Congress, nor that a number of respectable journals accepted the statement and thereon based arguments which lose their force in the face of the inaccuracy of the figures. If Mr. Wilson's statement meant anything it meant that at the time it was made the Sugar Trust were in possession of the \$112,000,000 worth of raw sugar which had been admitted into American ports free of duty as under the McKinley tariff, and that by the imposition of the 40 per cent. duty, under the Gorman bill, the trust was enabled to add that duty to their other profits, being that much more than they would have obtained if the McKinley tariff on sugar had not been changed. Mr. Wilson evidently desired to convey the idea that if, as under the Senate bill, a duty of 40 per cent. were levied upon raw sugar, the large quantity of sugar that had been imported by the trust, in excess of current demands, and to meet this very emergency, would be worth an extra \$40,000,000 to the trust. Mr. Wilson was in good position at the time he made this statement, to know whether this large importation of sugar had really been made. If it had been made his statement would have been timely—it had not been made his statement was false and misleading. At the time this statement was made, in refuting it Mr. Searles, the treasurer of the Sugar Trust, declared that the quantity of raw sugar then on hand was equal to only five weeks' supply, and that its value did not exceed \$12,000,000. The value of all the raw sugar imported into the United States during the year ending June 30, 1893, was \$114,935,596; and for the year ending June 30, 1894, \$124,635,031; an increase during the latter year over the previous of only \$9,679,935. This shows that the excessive importation spoken of by Mr. Wilson did not occur during the fiscal year ended with last June. In fact, such an importation would have been practically impossible. Considering that the total imports for 1894 were valued at only \$124,635,000, all of which was required for current consumption, and considering Mr. Searles' statement that only five weeks' supply of sugar was on hand, it is ridiculous to suppose it possible that the trust could have imported almost a year's supply of raw sugar between the beginning of the current fiscal year, July 1, and the day Mr. Wilson made his wild statement, which the Monetary Times and other journals have given credit to. To have even attempted to purchase such a large quantity of sugar, in excess of the regular demand, would have created a flutter in the markets of the world which would have defeated the object of the trust in attempting to buy.

#### *EDITORIAL NOTES.*

The Sultan of Turkey has recently issued an order that the uniforms of all army officers and police agents shall be made of material woven in the Imperial Cloth Factories.

This is an example in the line of patronizing home industries that our Government would do well to follow.

The Globe says that in our tariff we have "slavishly copied American principles." In view of the fact that for twenty years our duties have averaged half the American rate and sometimes less than that, and that the McKinley bill of 1890 was intended to act as a measure totally pro-