

—Hon. J. I. Tarte, having retired from the Government, his influence in favor of high protection, so far as his official position is concerned, has no effect. It is to be regretted that he has not completed his investigations among the textile mills, in which he was engaged when brought to task for his utterances. It is to be hoped the event will not prevent the Government giving such relief as the woolen men at least are entitled to. As for Mr. Tarte, he will no doubt advocate protection more vigorously than ever from the editorial chair.

—During the past eight years, out of the total exports of Indian cotton, the proportion sent to the United Kingdom was 23.7 per cent. as against 71.7 per cent. to the Continent of Europe, 2.5 per cent. to Japan and China, and 2.1 per cent. to Calcutta and the Indian coast generally. For the cotton year 1901—2, the proportion to Great Britain was 0.7 per cent only, to the Continent of Europe, 41 per cent., to China and Japan 57.3 per cent. The tendency, therefore, is for India to become a source of supply for raw cotton for the far East rather than for Great Britain.

—On the occasion of the visit of Hon. J. I. Tarte to the Dominion Cotton Mills, at Magog, A. F. Gault, president of the company, said that unless increased protection was granted, the mills would close down. Referring to the matter, the Moncton Transcript points out that the mills in that town enjoy in addition to 35 per cent. protection, exemption from municipal taxation, and have until this year been paying 9 per cent. on, in some cases, watered stock. This year, because of the enormous outlay on capital account in increasing their plants on borrowed capital the banks insisted that the companies pass their dividends for one year and reduce the liabilities. Thus, the Transcript alleges, the necessity of reducing the liabilities caused by outlay justified through increasing business is presented as an evidence of undue foreign competition instead of being that which it really is—a proof of expanding output. It says, further, that the Moncton mill is run largely on orders given by American dealers, and its output stamped with American brands is shipped to China and sold there as American cottons in competition with the world. If these things are so, the grievance of the cotton men, as to the tariff, does not begin to compare with that of the woolen manufacturers.

—The Indian Textile Journal, referring to the proposed travelling exhibition of United States manufactures, which it is intended to send through the Eastern seas, visiting India, China, Russia, Japan, the Philippines, South Africa, etc., warns Indian manufacturers that an "Indian invasion" is threatened by our

ambitious neighbors. Our contemporary points out that British direct trade with India is slowly declining, and that United States methods of cotton manufacturing have so improved of recent years as to put them in a position to get a foothold in India, just as they have been able to increase their hold on the cotton trade of China and Japan. The Journal goes on to say: "England seems to have forgotten that golden counsel Cobden gave it years ago. That far-sighted seer said: 'Our only chance of national prosperity lies in the timely remodelling of our system so as to put it on an equality with the improved management of the Americans. Unfortunately, England is still behind in remodelling its system. It is still conservative in one of the greatest and most profitable branches of industry, namely, cotton manufacture. The delegate whom the Manchester Guardian sent a few weeks ago to the United States to make his report on the industry, said, in one of his interesting and most instructive letters, that if he were asked to attempt in a single sentence definition of 'the improved management of the Americans,' as he had seen it in their cotton mills and print works, he should say that it was this—'unceasing study and close analysis of the cost of production, and unrelenting endeavor to diminish any and every element in them by any departure from existing routine or by any outlay of additional capital, which close calculation may show to be probably advantageous.'"

—Fall River, Mass., has hitherto been the leading centre for print cloths in the United States, but its sun is on the decline. Many of the mills are said to be struggling for existence, and there are indications that the South is steadily drawing away the cotton manufacturing industry which was at one time centred in the New England states. An English manufacturer who recently visited the United States writes to this effect.

DEATH OF WM. MITCHELL.

Wm. Mitchell, proprietor of the matting factory at Cobourg, Ont., died somewhat suddenly of heart disease on the 26th of October, aged 74. He was born in Alva, Stirlingshire, Scotland, and educated at the celebrated Dollar Academy. He served an apprenticeship to the dry goods business at Alloa, afterwards going to Glasgow and Stirling. He came to Toronto between 50 and 60 years ago, and was engaged in business there till about 18 years ago, when he purchased the matting factory established by Longmore & Clark, and then the only one of its kind in Canada. For some time he continued to reside in Toronto, but about 14 years ago removed to Cobourg, where he continued to carry on the factory successfully till his death. When business was dull he kept running for the sake of his employees, keeping as many as possible at work. Mr. Mitchell was of a most kindly and charitable disposition, respected by all, and beloved by his employees. His remains were interred in Toronto. He was unmarried, and leaves behind an aged sister, with whom he had always lived. The business will in the meantime be continued as usual.