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(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

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ECONOMIC ASPECT OF THE ENGLISH ENGINEERS' STRIKE.

Looked at from the American standpoint, it is evident that in the recent struggle between employers and men in the English engineering trades, the employers have been fighting for the interests of labor fully as much as for their own.

The theory that the introduction of labor-saving machinery is prejudicial to the interests of labor is one that has long ago been exploded in this country.

Indirectly the late strike may be traced to the influence of American competition upon the British engineering trades. The wonderful strides which we have made, especially in the past decade, have been closely observed by English manufacturers.

Now that the employers are at liberty to run their establishments with a free hand, we may look for a speedy assimilation to American methods and an extended use of American tools—a change which, while it may render the English keener competitors, is certain to open an ever increasing market for the special machine tools for which this country is famous.

However, it is certain that in spite of the temporary loss to both capital and labor, the late struggle will prove to be a positive benefit to the engineering trades of Great Britain.

EXTENSIONS OF PATENTS.

It is a notable fact that the instances in which extensions of United States patents are granted are now, and have been since 1861, extremely rare, and such also seems to be the case in England.

ask a similar boon oftener than has been customary, as "many other inventors of equal merit find themselves at the end of the period covered by an original patent in a worse plight than his."

Whatever encouragement, however, may be afforded by this precedent to those seeking extensions of English patents, it is evident that the matter of obtaining extensions of United States patents stands on a very different footing.

But this has not always been the case in regard to United States patents. By the act of 1836, the Commissioner of Patents was empowered to grant extensions of patents, the Secretary of State and the Solicitor of Patents, being then constituted a board to hear evidence in support of applications for such extensions.

It may well be questioned whether this legislation was altogether wise, and whether the mere lengthening by three years of the terms of all patents should operate as a bar to any extension of a patent, no matter how meritorious the case, or what might be the equities involved—for this is practically what it amounts to when the sole power to make extensions is reserved by Congress to itself.

OUR INCREASING FOREIGN TRADE.

The statistics of foreign trade, recently issued by the Treasury, show a truly remarkable increase over the preceding year. The exports reached the great total of \$1,099,129,519, an increase of some \$93,200,000 over those of the year before.

It is noteworthy that the figures for December are considerably higher than the average monthly figures for the year, showing that the growth of the foreign trade is steady and likely to continue under existing conditions.

In this connection the figures of British foreign trade for 1897 will be of interest. The total value of exports was \$1,150,000,000, a decrease of \$28,500,000 on the preceding year, and the imports reached the enormous total of \$2,020,000,000, an increase of \$46,500,000.

THE INDUSTRIAL OUTLOOK IN EGYPT.

The former United States consul at Cairo, Mr. F. C. Penfield, has contributed to the February number of The Forum a valuable paper regarding the agricultural development of Egypt which has occurred under the so-called protectorate of Great Britain.

The writer holds decided views as to the moral aspects of the continued occupation of Egypt, so long after the ostensible objects of that occupation have been achieved. He is convinced that the British government not only intends to remain permanently in pos-