

**MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.**

British Columbia, although she has suffered from the almost world-wide depression has possibly had far less to complain of in proportion to her population and resources than most other countries. Still, had we possessed manufacturing industries of our own we should have felt the pressure in a far lighter degree. We are consumers of considerable quantities of goods of all descriptions which are manufactured elsewhere than at home and this has been the means of taking away large amounts of money that would have served us in good stead had it been retained at home. We are not wishful to build up around us a Chinese wall; but we do say that even upon ever so small a scale local industries would have materially benefitted us, by keeping here for our own people's use sums of money the benefit of which other people are enjoying. Moreover, the freight rate upon much of this imported stuff is a heavy item of expense, sufficient, in addition to the national protective duty to encourage any early efforts in the direction of manufacturing.

There are, of course, industries that it would be folly for us to experiment with. They are not suited to our conditions, and the market which we could offer or develop outside of our limits would not be large enough to make the venture pay, and we say that we want no industry that must be pampered and tended like a hot house plant, since, after all, despite our best exertions, it could eventually be no more than a mere exotic to be got rid of at best an expensive luxury. But there are various departments—some of which have been previously pointed out in these columns—which we might cultivate with very good prospects of success. There are numerous instances in this direction which fully demonstrate what the exercise of a little pluck and energy may do. Of course it would be uphill work for some time; but this ought not to discourage, as nothing yet has succeeded without hard work or, indeed, sacrifice at the period of its initiation and early growth. We invite some of our readers to express their views on this subject through our columns.—*Commercial Journal.*

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