



Published on the first and third Friday of each month, by the  
CANADIAN MANUFACTURER PUBLISHING Co., (Limited).

6 WELLINGTON STREET WEST, TORONTO.

FREDERIC NICHOLLS, *Managing Director.*

J. J. CASSIDY, *Editor.*

ED. D. McCORMACK, *Secretary.*

SUBSCRIPTION. - - - - \$2.00 per year.

ADVERTISING RATES SENT ON APPLICATION.

MR. FREDERIC NICHOLLS is Secretary of  
The Canadian Manufacturers' Association,  
The Woolen Manufacturers' Association, and  
The Tanners' Association.

His Office is at the Publication Office of the  
CANADIAN MANUFACTURER,  
6 Wellington Street West, Toronto.

### THE WOOLEN MANUFACTURERS.

THE fact that a deputation of woolen manufacturers recently went to Ottawa, and interviewed the Minister of Customs, urging an increase in the duty on woolen goods, has raised a howl among the anti-protectionists. The representation made to the Minister was to the effect that the shoddy cloth now imported into Canada is made much lighter than formerly; that it has greatly deteriorated in intrinsic value, and that its inferior quality as regards material, and the light weight in which it is woven, render it impossible for Canadian manufacturers to successfully contend against it at the rate of duty now imposed. The hue and cry is raised against the manufacturers, and no doubt the indignant anti-protectionists would proceed forthwith to crucify them if it was not a violation of the law to do so. The *Monetary Times* makes itself prominent in its denunciation of these sinful manufacturers, uncharitably denying in them any particle of consistency in presenting their request to the Government, and imputing to them motives that are bad in every respect. It says that Mr. Bowell was told by the deputation that the United States was increasing the duty on shoddy and similar cloth, which statement, it says, "has not even the merit of veracity; and even if the averment had been true, the United States, in the matter of tariff legislation, is about as unsafe a guide as it would be possible to find." As answer to the argument that it would be to the interest of the Canadian consumer to keep out the shoddy now imported, our contemporary thinks that the manufacturers assume that the consumer does not know where his own interest lies, for if he did, of course he would not pay for the stuff more than it is worth. "The pretence of speaking in favor of the consumer," it says, "is the flimsiest veil ever woven to conceal the real purpose." This language and these impu-

tations are rather hard on these unfortunate Canadian manufacturers; and so far as the *Monetary Times* is able to squelch them, they should consider themselves squelched.

Abuse, however, proves nothing, and is no argument. The woolen manufacturers of Canada are respectable gentlemen who have large sums of money invested in a legitimate business. They have a grievance, and they carry it to that officer of the Government whose duty it is to consider the facts laid before him by them. If there is good reason in their prayer, it will probably be granted, unless the adverse element represented by the *Monetary Times*—the importers of shoddy goods—bring sufficient counteracting influences to bear to prevent it.

No argument is needed to show that Canada is filled up with imported shoddy goods, and that these are sold at prices with which Canadian manufacturers cannot possibly compete. It is an open question whether it is the privilege or the duty of the Government to attempt in any manner to restrict the importation of these goods into the country. The *Monetary Times* sneers at the idea; but it seems to forget that such things are regulated by governmental interference, as, for instance, the use of spirituous liquors, opium, poisons, impure milk, etc., and it is as much a "flimsy veil" to speak in favor of the regulation of traffic in these things as it is to speak in favor of the consumer in an effort to prevent his being deceived in the quality of the cloth he wears. The fact is, between the flimsy character of the imported goods alluded to, and the under-valuation at which more or less of them are appraised, the Canadian consumer on the one hand, and the Canadian manufacturer on the other, have a rough time of it. Large amounts of these goods are brought into the country, much of them already made up into clothing, as is evidenced by the fact that in almost any town ready-made clothing may be found offered for sale at prices actually less than what the cheapest Canadian tailors would charge for the tailoring, leaving the cost of the material out of the question. But notwithstanding the fact of the inferior quality of the cloth, the great cheapness of it is an inducement to purchasers which many cannot resist; and thus it is that the domestic woolen industry is severely and permanently injured. The dry goods men represent to the Government that the manufacturers do not, or cannot, make the goods required for their trade. This is neither fair nor correct, for these men have the handling of about all the goods sold, and it is within their power to dispose of the home made goods if they desired to do so; and they would do so if their desire to reap larger profits did not lead them to give preference to the imported shoddy. It is thought by some, and with much show of reason, that this great influx of shoddy goods is a systematic effort on the part of foreign manufacturers to force the closing of Canadian mills, and thus give them the entire control of our home market.

The denial that the United States is increasing the duty on certain kinds of cloth is begging the question. While it is possible that the Senate tariff bill, which has already passed that body, may not pass in the House at the present session of Congress, there can be no doubt that either that bill or one similar to it will become law at an early day. The present tariff rates there upon woolen cloths valued at not exceeding eighty cents per pound, is thirty-five cents per pound and thirty-five per cent. *ad valorem*, and above the value of eighty