

the Fair will stand discredited with, Mr. Thora says, perhaps ninety per cent. of the manufacturers of agricultural machinery and some kindred lines. Dependence is had upon the City Council to supply the money needed, and now The Mail and Empire is telling us that the property of the ratepayers is being confiscated by the taxes about being imposed. Under the circumstances the outlook is not encouraging for the passage of a by-law to raise \$160,000 this year for the Industrial Exhibition.

NEW ONTARIO.

The importance to Canadian manufacturers generally and to those of Ontario, particularly, of the efforts that are being made to develop what is known as "New Ontario" does not receive the consideration it deserves. As heretofore alluded to in these pages, Premier Ross has declared it to be a prominent feature of his Government's policy, the encouraging of the opening up to civilization of the millions of acres of rich agricultural and mineral lands included in that section of the Province of Ontario lying north and west of Lake Superior, and he will no doubt make his word good by granting liberal bonuses towards the building of railroads, highway roads, bridges, etc., looking to the development of the country. New Ontario, as the region is called, contains about 120,000,000 acres of land. The whole province of Ontario contains about 12,000,000 acres under cultivation. To supply the wants of the people who live in the sections in which these cultivated lands lie, requires the investment of hundreds of millions of capital in manufacturing enterprises, and the employment of thousands of skilled workmen and artisans. What would it mean to the country, the opening up of only ten per cent. of the available agricultural lands of New Ontario. What would it mean to our manufacturers to supply the demands that would exist from the very beginning in opening up these lands? In every step of the development the products of our manufacturing and industrial establishments would be in demand, and it would be found that even at our very doors a market existed more valuable than any that could be found in more distant places. Mr. Ross has the perspicacity of the true statesmen in opening a door to our manufacturers for the disposal of their products at home.

On a recent occasion a large and influential delegation waited upon the Government asking that a land grant be made in aid of the construction of the Algoma Central Railway, to be run from Sault Ste. Marie to Missanabie, a point on the Canadian Pacific Railway about 200 miles from the "Soo," including a branch to Michipicoten. The promoters undertake, if the land grant is made, to employ some 5,000 hands along the line of the road, not only in its construction but also in some of the many industries in which they are interested. This railway is one of the many enterprises which certain capitalists, among whom is Mr. F. H. Clergue, have in contemplation, and who expect to make expenditures on investments in the near future amounting to perhaps \$15,000,000. These are the parties who are now erecting smelting works at Sault Ste. Marie for the refining of nickel, etc., and who will also probably build mills for the production of steel rails, structural shapes, etc.

Another enterprise in which our manufacturers are interested is the construction of the Thunder Bay, Nipigon and

St. Joe railway, to extend from Port Arthur, the head of navigation on Lake Superior, to Lake Nipigon, a distance of eighty miles, thence to Lake St. Joseph, where there are immense beds of lignite, and on to the Albany river.

If proper conditions are imposed there is no reason why the Ontario Government should not make the grants of land requested. If the roads are not built the title to the lands would remain in the Government. If the roads are built the lands would be thrown open to settlers on very easy terms. If the roads are built and immigrants flow thitherward, their wants must be supplied. The building of railroads, the settling of lands, the mining of ores and other minerals, the development of water power, the conversion of spruce forests into paper, and a thousand other things, all imply investment of capital and employment of skilled labor in manufacturing enterprises.

The prospects of our manufacturers are bright for supplying the present and prospective wants of New Ontario.

THE ASSOCIATION'S CATECHISM.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association sent out a circular letter a few days ago to a number of its members propounding a number of questions having reference to preferential trade, asking expressions of opinion thereon. Following is a copy of the circular:

Toronto, March 31, 1900.

DEAR SIR:—The Canadian Manufacturers' Association, realizing the very great importance of all tariff changes to the manufacturers in Canada, desires to obtain as full and accurate information as possible respecting the probable effects of the proposed extension of the preference on British goods coming into Canada from 25 per cent. to 33½ per cent.

To you, as a manufacturer, this letter is addressed, to ascertain what are your views as to the probable effect on your particular business, of the proposed changes.

In order to give this information some uniformity, certain leading questions have been drawn up, and if you feel interested in question, kindly answer these questions as concisely and accurately as possible, and return your reply at least not later than April 5th, as no time should now be lost.

- 1st.—What line of goods do you manufacture?
- 2nd.—How many men do you employ?
- 3rd.—How has the twenty-five per cent. preference tariff affected your business?
- 4th.—How do you think the proposed increase to 33½ per cent. will affect your business?
- 5th.—Do you find that in your line of business foreign goods coming into Canada get the benefit of the preference intended for British goods only?
- 6th.—Do you consider that the requirement that twenty-five per cent. of the labor expended in the manufacture of an article shall be British in order to entitle it to the preferential tariff, is satisfactory? If not, what proportion do you think should be required?
- 7th.—How would you view any proposition to extend the benefit of such a preferential tariff to the United States?
- 8th.—Would you be in favor of urging upon the Government the advisability of not dealing with the tariff every year, but of only revising it at certain stated intervals?
- 9th.—Have you any other points of interest?

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association is approaching these questions upon strictly non-political lines, looking solely to safeguard the manufacturing industries of Canada, and your opinion and criticism are most cordially invited.