

inferior wheat finds its way to market. These are all legitimate objects. The promoters disclaim all objects such as are usually sought by a combine. Some apprehension was felt on this point, and a clause was inserted prohibiting the association from acting as a trade corporation for purposes of buying and selling.

THE QUEBEC ESTIMATES.

In the financial circumstances of the Province of Quebec, and after the raids made upon her treasury, as well as the injury done to her credit under the ill-starred *Mercier regime*, retrenchment was clearly in order. The present Government of the province has set itself to prune the appropriations for the fiscal year 1892-93, and they have assuredly not spared the knife. Comparing the estimates for the coming year with those of the previous twelve months, we find the following decreases:

Legislation	\$ 93,775
Civil government	18,633
Administration of justice	72,000
Public instruction	29,297
Agriculture and colonization	89,927
Public works	52,640
Special expenditure	1,180,915
Charities	67,087
Miscellaneous services	73,260
Railways	114,815

As against this aggregate saving of \$1,792,000, there is to be put an increased expenditure of \$217,000 in connection with the public debt, viz., from \$1,239,000 in the previous year to \$1,456,000 now. And an apparent increase of \$375,600 under "Public Works Extraordinary" is not an increase at all, because the previous administration put this item under "special expenditure," opposite which item appears \$1,180,000. There is an estimated saving of \$1,200,000 on this year's outlay, a determined effort at economy which we trust may not be seriously reduced when it runs the gauntlet of committee. The estimate of receipts of the province for the year, brought down on Tuesday, shows a current income of \$3,143,560, mainly composed of the Dominion subsidy, \$1,278,952; Crown lands, \$506,440; direct taxes on commercial corporations, \$131,895; hotel and shop licenses, \$94,833; interest on Q.M.O. and O. Railway, \$368,411. To this three millions is added some \$25,000 trust funds, etc., and \$3,707,530, the proceeds of last year's loan, making \$6,875,697 income. The payments amount to \$6,592,034, leaving a balance of over \$283,000.

THE GROWTH OF MANUFACTURES.

From census bulletin, No. 8, a good idea may be had of the progress of manufactures in Canada during the last two decades. That a protective policy was capable of forcing manufactures these figures were not needed to tell. The years from 1871 to 1881 and from 1881 to 1891, are not coincident with the change of economic policy which produced the chief development of manufactures. Eight-tenths of the first of these two decades had passed before the so-called National Policy was enacted. We are, therefore, quite prepared for Mr. Johnson's announcement that of the 72 per cent. increase in industrial establishments that has taken place in the last twenty years,

no less than 52 per cent. was in the last decade. Of the total increase in hands employed, 81.3 per cent., the gain in the last was not much more than half, being 44 per cent. This at least shows that manufacturers were not non-progressive before 1878. The total number of persons employed in manufactures, in 1891, men, women, boys and girls, was 367,496, being an increase during the decade of 112,561.

It is no longer true that the West is not interested in manufactures, British Columbia being the largest manufacturing province, for its population. Measured by the same standard, New Brunswick stands second. There must of course be special reasons for these facts; among them may be reckoned the rich salmon fishery of British Columbia. Of all the provinces, Ontario is the largest manufacturer, giving employment to 165,335 persons, against 116,467 in Quebec. Ontario must have some advantage to offset the cheaper labor of Quebec. She has a better consuming market, and possibly in other ways more opportunities than her sister province. New Brunswick manufactures, we take it, owe something to the cheaper labor than that which Ontario employs, though it is not cheaper than that of Quebec, if so cheap. The future distribution of manufactures may follow the coal fields, in which case Nova Scotia, the North-West and British Columbia would become the seat of numerous industries. The most central coal fields would present the best conditions of competition, unless its action were disturbed by artificial contrivances which might control for a time, but could scarcely become permanent. Of the capital invested in machinery and tools employed in manufactures, Ontario owns nearly one half; the following figures show the distribution of this form of invested capital:

Ontario	\$38,295,158
Quebec	26,256,791
Nova Scotia	4,688,401
New Brunswick	5,478,924
Prince Edward Island	672,598
Manitoba	1,829,476
North-West Territories	333,346
British Columbia	3,248,571

Total \$80,803,265

The distribution of manufactures reaches all the provinces, though in proportions which vary more than their population. Lowest in the list, as was to be expected, stand the Northwest territories. As a natural consequence, this part of the country is the most impatient of protection, occupying in this respect the same position that the Southern States occupied towards New England before the Civil War. Much of this \$80,000,000 of capital, and a great deal more, has been invested under the temptation of the tariff. But the temptation very often was sought out and created by the manufacturers. They told the law makers that if such and such duties were put on such and such goods, they would undertake to employ people to manufacture them. The moral obligation to maintain a tariff enacted under such influences is far from being absolute. There was at all times a respectable opposition to the increase of the tariff for purposes of protection; and it must have been foreseen that a time might come when the tariff

policy would be changed. Those who urged the legislature to enact the original National Policy tariff, and subsequently to increase it, took their chances of having the duties reduced on a change of Government at Ottawa. No sudden or violent change need be expected; but a gradual change must always be taken into account, as a possibility of the future.

The National Policy was born of the conviction that it was desirable and necessary to give greater variety to national industry. That result had been attained, though the effect was too largely discounted in advance. It has not brought all the advantages anticipated; it has not always benefited the manufacturers themselves. What was promised in advance was no more than a re-arrangement of the tariff, from a Canadian point of view—a re-arrangement without increase. This position was afterwards abandoned, and protection for its own sake found countenance at Ottawa. Manufacturers have been built up; but with the increase has come a choice between domestic competition and combination, manufacturers inclining to the latter and the general public objecting. And now it is a question which is to succeed, domestic competition in manufactures or combination: whether the many are to be sacrificed to the few, or combinations be put down. Capital put into manufactures has been lost in some instances, and the question is whether the public can be compelled to restore it through combinations which will bring dividends on nominal capital which no longer exists except on paper. It cannot be said that the farming community has been benefited to any appreciable extent by protection; it has been a visible loser through having to pay higher prices for many things which have become subjects of domestic manufacture. Has it reaped an equivalent gain? This is the question which a future legislature may be obliged to answer, and it is well that all should try to understand it. Partisan journalism may help to obscure the issue, though it is not likely to throw any real light upon it.

MINERAL ATTRACTIONS.

There are immense deposits of mineral wealth in the various provinces of Canada, and yet the total output per annum of such products is less than that of a single State of the American Union. Many a man has launched out into mining because of the allurements of profit made by others whose experience and final success has been bought at a dear price after many efforts. Profit is the great desideratum in all business ventures. Mining has been a venture. It has not had the same attractions in Canada as in other countries, because the profits expected from the investment have not been realized. It is different in other countries, and a new order of things may be experienced here before long. Our universities have taken up the subject and provided means for imparting knowledge in mineralogy. The theoretical training will greatly aid in the practical working out of success in mining, so that it will not be so much a wild venture as formerly, but a practical business carried on upon legiti-