

IMPORTANCE OF MANUFACTURING

What I have endeavored to emphasize is that the manufacturer in Canada is not a monopolist, robbing the classes whom he employs, or those to whom he sells, but in the great fabric of national greatness that we are weaving, he constitutes a part so important that no one, save the most earnest student of Canadian statistics, can well estimate. In my mind we have a right to expect that our public men, our statesmen, and our press will so far forget party strife in matters that vitally affect the industrial progress of our country, that they will endeavor at all times to support any policy that tends to our commercial advancement. This may be done in various ways. First, privately, by patronizing, so far as possible, home industries. By this I do not mean any narrow policy of buying only what we make, but the cultivation of national pride and confidence in our own products, and a willingness, other things being equal, to purchase that which is made in our own factories and by our own work-people. Dictates of self interest alone should justify this partiality.

ASSISTANCE OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The other method is by the aid of public policy. This is done in two ways. First, by bonusing industries by municipalities and towns, and, second, by tariff legislation. I think that there is no more striking testimony to the recognized value of manufacturing establishments to a country, than the willingness that appears in almost every town and city of our Dominion to assist by bonuses or the granting of special privileges, the establishment of some industry that will employ work-people and provide good substantial pay-rolls. In this we cannot too strongly condemn the foolish rivalry of certain towns which prompts them to outbid each other for the establishment of an industry already located in another town. Benefit secured in this way is almost always over-balanced by the injury wrought. The policy of creating local well-being at the

expense of one's own neighbors is strongly to be deprecated.

TARIFF LEGISLATION.

Still another method of encouraging the development of our industries is the undertaking of it, not as a local question, but as a Dominion and national one through tariff legislation. On this great question I do not propose to say much. I believe that all the thinking people of Canada, the men who have her national progress at heart, breathe easier to-day when the tariff question is not a main feature of party politics. I believe that I voice the sentiments of the Canadian people in saying that in matters that are so sensitive and so nicely balanced as trade, where so much depends on mutual confidence and good faith, the less that trade questions become the dividing line in party politics the better for our country. Were it not that as a people we are jealous of seeing governmental rights transferred from us, we would gladly place such questions in the hands of a strong and impartial commission for administration.

We have to-day what may, I think, be fairly called a moderate tariff, one to which no section of the community with the well being of the whole at heart, can take exception, for all must admit that in a new country, capital will not invest itself in manufacturing unless it has some assurance that it will not be swamped by the manufactured goods of older countries who produce for a larger market. The situation of Canada is striking in this respect, on account of its geographical position so contiguous to the great manufacturing Republic to the south of us. Under a practically prohibitive tariff, the manufacturing establishments there have reached a stupendous magnitude. We are so close to them that many of their centres are nearer to consuming points in Canada than our own industrial cities of Montreal and Toronto. Our styles in all lines are identical with theirs, and our market is suitable in every respect for any of their surplus production. These, and other conditions, generally