

which are second to none on the continent. Instance also the great change in our stationary and marine steam engines, compound and triple expansion, and consider the economy obtained by the modern style. Then, on every hand we have evidence of the great advance in steel bridge building and steel architectural work; but in no branch of engineering has there been such rapid and marked progress as in the manufacture of electrical appliances, nearly all our cities and towns having been equipped with electric lighting plants, electric street cars, etc., in a very short period; and I have no hesitation in affirming that this mysterious means of transmitting power will speedily make great changes in the economy of manufacture, as even now our magnificent water powers are rapidly being utilized. And again, we see on every hand the improvement made in all classes of agricultural machinery. Harvesters, plows and hand implements all show that with increase in quality and more elaborate finish the cost has been greatly reduced.

I desire to draw your attention to an event of last year in which Canada played a most important part. I refer to the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago. Large numbers of our people visited that great assemblage of arts and manufactures, where the wealth of the forest, field and mine were placed alongside of the achievements of the factory and workshop; and no better object lesson could be presented to demonstrate to us the remarkable improvement obtained in all classes of manufactures since the effort made by Canada at Philadelphia. Apart from the great success achieved by our agricultural products, which carried everything before them, nearly every industry was represented; and in every building of the White City prominent positions were held by Canadian exhibitors; and the generally expressed opinions of the American and British press has accorded to Canada places of merit alongside those of the United States and Germany. In this connection I cannot do better than quote an extract from London Engineering regarding this exhibition, which states:—"There has been issued from the Foreign Office a report of the Columbian Exposition, by Mr. J. A. Hays Sadler, British Consul at Chicago, who says: The British colonies came well to the front and universally drew remarks of praise and approbation, not only because of the extent, but also the superior quality, of their displays. The exhibits of New South Wales and Canada fairly took the public by surprise." The arrangement of the Colonial exhibits was excellent, and they were well set off by decorative enclosures which were at once simple and attractive. Attention might also be drawn to a Canadian achievement that we all look upon with national pride, and which has won for our country the admiration of the world. I allude to our Transcontinental railway, which extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and also our connection with China and Japan by steamship lines. Compare this with a similar work, the Trans-Siberian Railway, which has for some time been taxing the resources of the Russian Government, a work which presents no great engineering difficulties compared with the six hundred miles of the Canadian Pacific Railway in its Rocky Mountain section. It might be asked: what has such an achievement to do with the National Policy? A fair answer to this is that, apart from the moral side of this question a nation's strength and stability lies in its resources,

its power to resist aggression, and to maintain its independence and keep up its credit in the world's market; and I ask you who are conversant with this subject: has not Canada fully occupied this proud position? For while we are witnessing one of the most sudden and widespread depressions that can fall on any nation, such as that which is now visiting the United States, and while we find that the wave of disaster spends its force on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, we have every reason to be thankful that we have a National Policy. Instead of commercial union we have a sound banking system and a form of government that responds at once to the voice of the people.

As to the cry for tariff revision, we are well aware of the origin of this sentiment in its present aggressive form. It is invariably the case that any great political upheaval occurring in any country has a reflex influence on its neighbors, so in our case we find that the supposed success of the tariff reform party in the United States gave new life to a similar movement in Canada; and though those of all shades of politics are agreed as to the necessity of revising the tariff, and of correcting such anomalies as may exist in it, we cannot see any force in the assumption that if the Americans should reduce their tariff rate upon articles bearing 75% down to 50%, we should reduce ours from 30% down to 20%. I have mentioned before that the Wilson Bill is by no means a free trade measure, and if some politicians in Canada take any consolation from it we would have no cause to complain if they should desire to abide by its standard.

RESOLUTIONS.

At the regular annual meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association held in Toronto on February 14, 1894, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, and the Secretary was directed to forward copies thereof to the Dominion Government:

THE NATIONAL POLICY.

Whereas, from its geographical position and surroundings, the prosperity of the Dominion of Canada depends largely upon the maintenance of a fiscal policy which will foster the agricultural, the mining, the manufacturing and all its other interests;

And whereas, the existing National Policy of protection to Canadian industrial enterprise, inaugurated by Sir John A. Macdonald in 1879, has proved itself well suited to the needs of this country, inasmuch as it has been of inestimable advantage to all classes of our people;

A policy which makes the interests of Canadians paramount to those of foreigners by preventing this country from being made a slaughter market for the surplus products of foreign nations;

A policy which, while fully protecting Canadian industry and enterprise, loyally refuses to consent to trade arrangements with foreign countries which will in any way discriminate against Great Britain;

A policy which gives confidence and stability to capital, ensures prosperity to our manufacturing industries and enables our artisans to maintain a scale of wages far in excess of those which obtain in European countries;

A policy which, by retaining our skilled artisans in at home at wages which enable them to live in comfort, has provid-