

# CANADIAN MECHANICS' MAGAZINE

## MAGAZINE

### AND

#### PATENT OFFICE RECORD

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**I**N closing the last number of the sixth volume of the CANADIAN MECHANICS' MAGAZINE, we cannot but express our regret that the great depression which has existed in all branches of trade and manufactures, and which we alluded to in our closing number of last year's volume, not only continues to exist, but has increased to an alarming extent, particularly in the Province of Quebec. Failures still occur among our oldest firms, and manufacturers live in dread, from day to day, of receiving some unexpected blow from a source where least expected.

The building interests, in Montreal especially, are more depressed than they have been for years past, and the number of mechanics appertaining to its many branches will, we fear, this year, have a hard time.

In our last number, in the leading article on Free Trade and Protection, we particularly alluded to many of the causes that have brought about so much distress in the United States, and there cannot be a doubt that until trade begins to revive in that country, it will remain stagnated here, although protection will benefit us to some extent. We fervently hope that the coming Spring will bring with it better prospects, and trade become established on a firmer basis than it has been for some years past. Too much credit has been the ruin of the country, and honest men have had to suffer.

As a matter to be expected, all publications have suffered from the hard times, and perhaps none more so than scientific and mechanical papers; but we are happy to state that our subscriptions this year have increased nearly two fold, with every prospect of a large addition during the current year. We shall commence the seventh volume with an addition to its title, under which we hope it will grow and prosper in this country, and be patronized with as national and liberal spirit as its contemporary, the *Scientific American*, has been in the United States; which has enabled its publishers to bring it to its present high position among the scientific papers

of the world. There is no just reason why we should not be taken under the protective wings of a *national policy*, as any manufacturing interests in this country, but the national policy we mean is the policy of the whole of the Canadian people, of every shade of politics, to take a pride in building up a national scientific and mechanical paper. It is only by so doing that we can expect to reach that perfection that its contemporaries have obtained. It is only by so doing that we can expect to impart useful information from one part of the Dominion to the other on such subjects as relate to our mines, forests and other resources of the country — our public works and manufactures — our progress in art, architecture and mechanical improvements — and the useful inventions patented in this country.

It will be perceived that in this number we have partially classified its subjects, which we believe will give much satisfaction. This is the only scientific magazine published in this form. Almost every reader hereafter will readily find that part of subject matter relating to his own line of business. We have done this at the express wish of a large class of our subscribers. Thanking our kind readers for their past support, and hoping for a continuation of their favor, we wish them all a happy New Year with the fond hope that it will bring with it benefits to all.

#### THE SCIENTIFIC CANADIAN AND MECHANICS' MAGAZINE.

As this Magazine will be published for the future under the above title, we offer a few explanatory remarks why this change has been made. Had there been a sufficient number of reading mechanics in the Dominion to support a paper relating almost entirely to mechanical matters, we should not have deemed any change in the title either necessary or desirable, but, as it so happens that one half of those who follow mechanical trades in Canada are French Canadians, it will be readily understood that the remaining half are by no means sufficiently numerous to support a paper whose subjects might be entirely mechanical, when we know it to be a fact that only a small percentage of the latter are reading

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