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THE TORONTO EXHIBITION.

The Toronto Industrial Exhibition Association have assigned the Canadian Manufacturers' Association their accustomed office room in the Press Building on the Fair Grounds, and I take pleasure in announcing that it will be thus occupied during the two weeks of the forthcoming Fair beginning on September 3. All members of the Manufacturers' Association will make this their head-

quarters during the Fair; and all Canadian manufacturers, and American manufacturers, and all other manufacturers, and all their friends—their sisters and their cousins and their aunts are invited to make use of the accommodations which will be there provided. As usual, the latch string will hang on the outside of the door; and on the inside will be found conveniences which will be appreciated under the circumstances. The Fair promises to be exceedingly interesting to all concerned, and particularly so to manufacturers. The management are doing all within their power to make it thus, and they will undoubtedly succeed, as they always do. The Toronto Fair is always of great pecuniary advantage to exhibiting manufacturers.

J. J. CASSIDEY, Secretary,
 Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

SPECIFIC DUTIES.

Now that the Tariff Act has been passed and the Parliament adjourned, many of the enemies of protection are pointing to items in the tariff wherein the duties are as high or higher than in the old tariff, denouncing the Government for not having made a nearer approach to free trade, and declaring that the legislation was not in the best interests of the country.

It is a fact that the tariff bill, brought down to the House of Commons by Finance Minister Foster on March 29, showed a very considerable and important departure from the old tariff in that ad valorem duties were substituted for specific in many instances; and it is also true that in the final arrangement, as shown in the new tariff, this unwise change was amended, and the system of specific duties reinstated as far as possible; but this shows that although the Government may have been led astray by the clamor of enemies for an abandonment of the specific system, sober second thought and better councils prevailed before the arrival of the supreme hour, and that it was thought best to cling to the spirit of the National Policy. In doing this the Government have proved themselves true to the trust imposed upon them by the people; and they are to be thanked and congratulated upon what they have done. We are aware that some features of the new tariff are yet incongruous and not at all calculated to encourage the manufacturing industries of the country affected by them; but we have no doubt that upon proper representation being made they will be rectified.

The great difference of opinion regarding the tariff question between the Government and their supporters on the one side, and the Opposition upon the other, was and is whether the proper system for levying duties should be specific or ad valorem. We are free to confess that in theory the ad valorem system seems the more equitable, but experience has proved that the enforcement of that system is impracticable and impossible. It would not be impossible if as regards any particular article the circumstances of production were identical in all countries from which it might be imported, and if all men were honest; but as such conditions never prevail, the idea is Utopian. The prime requisite in any tariff system is that it shall be possible that the duties imposed may be collectible. If all