

THE TARIFF AND MACHINERY

THERE is a regulation in the Canadian Tariff of Customs which states that on printing presses and printing machines, such only as are used in newspaper, book and job printing offices; folding machines and paper cutters, used in printing and book-binding establishments, there shall be an *ad valorem* duty of ten per cent. Now, this tariff is established to encourage Canadian manufactures and to raise revenue.

Considering this duty of ten per cent. on printing machinery from the basis of encouragement to native manufacture, and knowing that at present there are no manufacturers of this kind of machinery, and being told by common sense that there will be none for some time, it is hard, in fact impossible, to justify this tax on the ground of protection. When a native manufacture of printing presses commences, protect it then, if it needs it, but when there is nothing to protect there can be no protection. Hence, from this standpoint, the duty is unnecessary and unjust. Looking at it as a source of revenue, we find it to be such. In the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1890, \$98,838 worth of printing machinery was imported, and for the following year, ending June 30th, 1891, the value of importations was \$113,742. Thus, ten per cent. on this is seen to be quite an item. But the incongruity of such a procedure can be seen when it is considered that while some Canadian manufactures are protected by a tariff on products similar to those they manufacture, one poor unfortunate manufacture—the printing industry—is not protected in this general protection of Canada's native industries. Truly, it should be protected. But this particular clause goes farther; it actually lays a tax on a Canadian manufacture, and thus the incongruity is apparent when one manufacture is taxed and another is given what is tantamount to a bounty. Oh, for some son of Anak to champion the cause of the art which is preservative of all things but itself!

There are some incongruities in the tariff, and it is permissible to say so now, because the organ of the manufacturers has passed its *ipse dixit* that such is the case. The paper mentioned might weep some of its crocodile tears over its own inconsistency in not acknowledging that there were incongruities in the tariff, when THE PRINTER AND PUBLISHER pointed out that the duties on patent medicines and baking powders bore heavily on that body of manufacturers known as printers. It now accuses other papers of not recognising these incongruities, and it tries to slaughter them, in its puny way, if any of them dare point to a defect. Truly, consistency is a jewel, which the editor of this organ has never seen.

Any journal has a right to argue along any line it wishes, but its arguments must be consistent, or it

will become an object of contempt. Inconsistency moreover reveals always a lack of sincerity, which very often changes contempt to disgust.

The tariff is at present unjust to some branches of Canadian industry, and the printing branch is one of the sufferers. Immediate relief is needed. The printers and publishers may not be the only class that need it, but they are certainly one class that does.

THE PRINTERS AND THE TYPE-SETTING MACHINES

GREAT trouble is being experienced both in the United States and Canada in fixing a scale of payment for men working on the type-setting machines. For some time the payments for setting type have been by the 1,000 ems, and when the machines were introduced the employers thought that paying by the piece would be accepted, much as in ordinary type-setting. But the Unions have not seen fit to accept this view and method, and in very few places in the United States have the employers been able to pay by the amount of work done. In Chicago this is done, but in very few other places. In Canada no settlement between the Union and the employers has been reached. The Union refuses to accept piece-work on the machines. They claim that the men would have to work too hard if a piece scale was introduced at the rates at present offered by the employers; that it is much harder and more unhealthy to work at a machine for eight hours than at the case. They also claim that the machines break down so often that the lost time prevents them from making fair wages on a piece-scale. On the other hand the employers claim that the men will not do their best with the machines when paid for the time worked, on account of their innate antagonism to the machines.

The rate which the employers desire is from 12½ to 14c. per thousand. The men claim that they cannot make wages at this. In the *Citizen* office, Ottawa, the rate is 18c. per thousand. What the men desire is a time payment: \$16.50 for night work of 48 hours per week, \$14 for day work of 52 hours per week, and \$12 a week for the learners, during their six weeks of learning. This is very nearly the wages paid at present, although they vary considerably. It is very probable that when the machines get in better working order and the men understand them better, a piece-scale will be adopted. It is the only fair way of payment, if work runs smoothly, and no doubt the Union will consent to an arrangement, when other difficulties are removed. The men claim that they will offer no opposition to the machines whatever, and indeed it would be folly for them to do so, because improvements of this kind being beneficial to the public generally, are bound to be introduced whenever suitable.