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THE ONTARIO ELECTIONS.

It is announced that the Ontario Assembly is dissolved, and the writs for the Provincial elections will be issued immediately. The day will be, over the whole of the Province, Wednesday, 29th December. The nominations will take place, except in those scattered constituencies as to which the law otherwise provides, on Wednesday, 22nd December. We are surely in for a lively Christmas time, as far as political agitation can make it so. In six weeks from the *Globe's* official announcement, the Provincial battle will have been lost and won.

In view of the Workmen's Injuries Act, in force July 1st, and the Factory Act, in force November 1st, Ontario manufacturers are particularly interested in the Provincial elections, we should say. They are also interested, or should feel interested, in figures and statements respecting labor, wages, and cost of living, as set forth by the Ontario Bureau of Industries. We therefore devote considerable space in this issue to extracts from a recent official report. This report, prepared by Mr. Blue, is substantially a review of the working of the National Policy in the Province of Ontario. Be it observed, however, that Mr. Blue's report throws no light on the actual operation of the local Acts above mentioned, which have only recently come into force. While, as for the operation of the N. P., it will help to make assurance doubly sure when the Ontario official statements as to labor and wages are supplemented with such further information as the manufacturers are able to give.

Now that Labor Legislation has begun in the Province, Ontario manufacturers had better realize the fact that they are interested in the Provincial as well as in the Dominion Statute Book. It will surely dawn upon them that the former as well as the latter is worth looking after. The time being short, they will be wise to know their own minds without delay, so that they may be able to speak plainly and directly to candidates. For, if they show themselves indifferent, they will have no reason to grumble should the public prove indifferent too. As Josh Billings or some similar authority remarks:—"He that bloweth not his own trumpet, the same shall not be blown." Carelessness does not command success; and does not deserve it either, we will add. A word to the wise ought to be enough.

MR. BLAKE ON COMMERCIAL POLICY.

NEITHER in Canada nor the United States is there to be found a single candidate for election who, being really a Protectionist, pretends to be a Free Trader. But in both countries respectively there are candidates, not a few, who pretend to be Protectionists, while they are Free Traders at heart. Most remarkable, is it not, that the hypocrisy and the pretence are *always* on one side, and *never* by any means on the other. Positively we challenge contradiction of the fact that a Protectionist never pretends to be a Free Trader, whereas Free Traders do very frequently pretend to be Protectionists, in order to catch the popular vote. No one in Canada proposes absolute Free Trade, they say. But there should be a reduction of the tariff all round, and in particular the odious coal-tax and the bread-tax ought to be abolished altogether. In other words, they merely want the key-stone of the N.P. arch removed, after which the fabric may be left to tumble down when it gets ready. Over the border, again, the same class of politicians are all for "horizontal reduction" of the tariff, which means killing Protection by inches—slowly, but surely enough, provided they get their way. Now, what is wanted is some means of dragging these men of unknown and indefinite policy out to the light of day, so that the whole country may see exactly what they would do were they in power. Let any man be a Free Trader if so he pleases: but at least let him be honest about it, and let him make his policy so plain to everybody that there can be no mistake about it.

On this subject Mr. Frank Hiscock, a prominent York State Republican, has been interviewed by the *Tribune*. And he makes this important statement, that, in his view, the time is near at hand when the Democratic party will have to drop its present doubtful and deceptive attitude, and say squarely before the country whether it is for continuing Protection or destroying it. The necessity that will compel a square issue must arise in this way. The debt is being paid off so rapidly that very soon the revenue will have to be greatly reduced, and this may be done in three ways: First, by abolishing in a lump the internal revenue taxes—those on spirits, beer, and tobacco included. Second, by making those customs duties which at present are most productive, so high that they will become prohibitory, and will cease to produce. Or, third—by abolishing protective duties altogether. Mr. Hiscock believes that the Democratic Executive now in power at Washington, and the party in Congress as well, will be compelled ere long to face the issue squarely, and before the country to elect whether they are for Protection or for Free Trade.