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The Monetary Times

Absorbed the INTERCOLONIAL JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, 1869; the TRADE REVIEW, Montreal, 1870; and the JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, Toronto.

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MANUFACTURERS VS. FARMERS.

From the fastnesses of McGill University, so it is intimated, comes something in the nature of a screech against the pretensions of the Manufacturers' Association. "Loud, rampant and Imperialistic," are the terms applied to this body, in an article which has just been given prominence in the "Manchester Guardian," and which, it is broadly hinted, was written by one of the best known professors of McGill.

The contributor makes much fun of Mr. Fielding's free list, which includes artificial teeth, the Bible, and nux vomica, and proceeds to say:—

"It (the Association) passes resolutions in favor of British trade, with a finger at the corner of its eye, voices unlimited devotion to the motherland, as it tilts up the Canadian tariff another peg, sunders the Empire for whose union it shouts itself hoarse at patriotic banquets, crams its pockets with the inflated gains of its unnatural system."

The article predicts that the new power of the West will soon scatter asunder the fabric of the present system like chaff before the wind.

Whether the coupling of the Bible with the false teeth and the nux vomica are considered to stamp the contributor with such a scientific knowledge as could only be possessed by a university professor, or there were other reasons for suspecting that a professor had done the deed, is not said. Possibly the vicious lunges made at the Association and the confidence of the predictions that the West was about to rise in its might and wipe it out of existence; may have been deemed to point in this direction. At any rate, the professor will have to stand for the authorship in the meantime; but had he been more moderate he would have received more support.

It is probably a fact that of late years a considerable degree of opposition to the Association has been developing among certain classes throughout the Dominion. But for the professor to imagine that this

means a speedy suppression of the aims of the Association, stamps him as unfamiliar with the situation in Canada. Naturally the West, being a farming community, will not see matters in the same light as the East. The West is a buyer and its wants are enormous. Everything in the shape of manufactured product is in demand, and the buyers have a sufficient eye to their own interests to satisfy their demands at the lowest cost. The East is the manufacturer and wants the highest price it can get. The Manufacturers' Association is fighting for its own hand, and in this it is doing just what all others are doing in the best way they know how. The fact that the manufacturers are organized; makes of them a greater power than the unorganized and headless forces which oppose them not only in the West but in other parts of the country.

For many years after the Macdonald administration came into power, the voice of the free-trader was hardly suffered in Canada. The "National Policy" was introduced at a time when the country was crying for bread, and thereafter came an improvement. Time after time the Liberals came before the country with their traditional free-trade, or low-duty policy, only to be again defeated. Eventually, they were successful; but the probability is that it was in spite of, and not because of, their low tariff views.

With the election of the Liberals began a period of prosperity, such as this country never before experienced. Factories, which the owners said would have to be closed if the Liberals were elected, simply could not keep up with the orders which were showered upon them from all directions.

This era of prosperity reflected much credit upon the Liberals, though largely no doubt this was due to causes beyond the control of either political party, and their traditional policy is now finding many friends and supporters. Even in the Manufacturers' Association is a large number who not only favor the further lowering of the duties upon their raw products, but upon the product they are turning out of their fac-