

## MANUFACTURERS IN CONVENTION.

It is not an easy matter to bring together a hundred men in any walk of life to consult upon their common interest, and to so arrange that each shall have a chance to express himself or to have his views expressed, and yet not detain a meeting of busy men beyond a reasonable time. The assemblage on Thursday last in Toronto of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association was an important and a representative one, and the manner in which its proceedings were conducted does great credit to the chairman, Mr. John F. Ellis, retiring president of the body. From early morning till past six at night the session lasted, and a number of momentous subjects were considered.

The report of the Tariff Committee favored a reasonable preference on goods imported from Great Britain, but only so long as the minimum tariff was high enough to protect adequately Canadian industries now in existence. Further, it declared that this increase in the preference would injure certain lines of manufacture, and that, therefore, the Government should consider means of raising the duty upon products competing with these industries. It was further urged that the preference should not be allowed on goods coming from Great Britain, unless the value of British labor in them was at least equal to 50 per cent. of the total value, this, in order to prevent foreign goods coming in under the name of British manufactures. The meeting was not, however, a unit in deprecating the preferential tariff, for Mr. S. Coulson, of Montreal, ironware manufacturer, declared that never had the tariff given him as much satisfaction since he had been in business, as at present. Under the former tariff makers of barbed wire could not compete with manufacturers from the United States. He thought, however, that some industries were protected out of proportion, and would like to see this rectified.

A resolution asking the Dominion Government to pass a general Bankruptcy Act, which will provide for speedy, equitable and economical distribution of estates of insolvent persons in Canada, was unanimously adopted. Mr. W. J. McMurtry expressed the opinion that legislation of this character had failed in the past because of the hostility or indifference of members from rural districts, and Mr. W. K. McNaught pointed out that legislation of the kind needed would never be obtained unless it was broad enough to include the farming, as well as commercial, element.

Messrs. J. O. Thorn and John M. Taylor presented a resolution in favor of patent office reform. Various points were instanced and the meeting agreed that the Parliamentary Committee, or a committee appointed for that purpose should prepare a memorandum setting forth what changes in the Patent Act are desirable to advance the interests of the inventors, manufacturers, and people of Canada. When the report of the Railway and Transportation Committee was presented by Mr. J. M. Taylor—and a very strong and belligerent report it was, bristling with instances and figures and urging "determined and concentrated action" to have the anomalies and injustices of freight transportation in Canada rectified—Mr. P. W. Ellis expressed himself with much force as to excessive rates on the C.P.R. He said that he knew of merchants in Vancouver, Victoria and the west who purchased their goods in the United States and paid the duty, cheaper than they could get them over the C.P.R. The Government will be memorialized upon the subject.

The report of the Trade and Industry Committee was submitted in his usual emphatic style, by Mr. J. P. Murray. He referred to the "missionary work" being done in London, Hamilton, Ottawa and Montreal towards getting new members. Direct communication has also been opened with British consuls in many countries, from whom satisfactory letters have been received. A recommendation of a very practical character was made by two Ontario members of the body, Messrs John Bertram of Dundas, and O. G. Anderson of Woodstock, who spoke in favor of forming local branches. Mr. C. C. Ballentyne of Montreal thought the Montreal Manufacturers' Association might easily be induced to join the Canadian Association, and favored the next meeting being held in Montreal. This last suggestion was enforced by Mr. Henry Miles, vice-president of the Montreal Board of Trade, in his brief address at the banquet, made at so late an hour that not one-fourth of the audience was present to hear him, a fact to be regretted on many

accounts. We give elsewhere an abridgment of his remarks.

It is agreeable to notice that, contrary to the views of certain members, motions tending to the exploitation of Canadian products of field or factory abroad were carried. One of these was by Mr. Thorn, who moved that the association appoint a representative to attend the Buffalo Exposition and induce as many foreign visitors as possible to come to Canada and meet Canadian manufacturers. The other was by Mr. Andrew Gunn, to the effect that Canadian manufacturers should endeavor to make a collective exhibit at the Glasgow Exhibition next year, under the auspices of the association.

Space can be found for only a brief notice of the annual address of the president for 1899-1900, Mr. John F. Ellis. He ventured the prediction that Canada would soon be the great paper-producing country of the world. He spoke in vigorous terms, also, of the steel and iron industry in Cape Breton, of which no person could have any conception without visiting the industries. Referring to the overland transportation companies, the speaker said that, while there were only two in Canada (the G.T.R. and C.P.R.), these two gave the manufacturers all they could do to keep them in line. The good work done by Secretary Russell in the six months since his appointment was referred to, and deservedly, by Mr. Ellis. The meeting gave loud testimony to Mr. Russell's faithful and intelligent labors.

It was decided to renew the request made last year, without avail, for a grant of \$100,000 towards a Dominion Exhibition to be held in Toronto. The election of officers then took place, resulting as follows:

President—P. W. Ellis, Toronto.

Vice-presidents—First vice-president, C. C. Ballentyne, Montreal; Ontario, Cyrus A. Birge; Quebec, E. Tougas; Nova Scotia, D. W. Robb; New Brunswick, C. J. Osman; Manitoba, F. W. Thompson; British Columbia, F. C. Wolfendly.

Treasurer—George Booth.

Executive Committee—R. W. Elliot, A. E. Kemp, W. K. McNaught, P. H. Burton, J. P. Murray, Thomas Roden, C. H. Riches, Geo. H. Hees, Edward Gurney, J. M. Taylor, Geo. Heintzman, J. O. Thorn, A. W. Thomas, W. B. Rogers, W. K. George, F. Kent, William Stone, F. H. Wright, John Taylor, S. M. Wickett, E. G. Gooderham, E. C. Boeckh, Widmer Hawke, R. Harmer, Fred Nicholls, J. F. Ellis, A. W. Allen, R. E. Menzie, A. Gunn, W. J. McMurtry, J. E. Maybee, F. B. Fetherstonhaugh, J. Bailey, J. B. Rolland, E. Tougas, J. B. Maclean, James Davidson, C. C. Ballentyne, George Evans, George H. Lees, W. C. Breckenridge, E. R. C. Clarkson, William Robins, William Gartshore, T. H. Smallman, F. Stanley, J. N. Kendry, D. W. Karn, O. G. Anderson, John Gowan, J. R. Barber, C. R. H. Warnock, J. H. Rowley, John Bertram, J. D. Pennington, L. Campbell, George Lang, James Goldie, E. P. Hawkins, J. B. Henderson, W. W. Cox, Henry Yeigh, John Hewton, F. H. Clergue and J. P. Wildman.

The president-elect, Mr. P. W. Ellis, in entering upon his new office, made a short speech, in which he gave a number of excellent reasons why every manufacturer in Canada should be a member of the association.

## A BRIEF BUT SUGGESTIVE SPEECH.

In responding to the toast of visitors, at the manufacturers' banquet in this city last week, Mr. Henry Miles, of Montreal gave an address which has not been adequately reproduced. We now place before our readers a portion of it, advocating special education for commercial life, and insisting upon the importance of an energetic immigration policy. Said Mr. Miles:

"Two thoughts occur to me that may find a place in the future meetings of your organization. Worthy I think indeed, and covering as they do ideas that can be far reaching in the permanent welfare and progress of manufacturing industry in this country. I refer to the question of 'Immigration' and to that of 'Commercial Education.' It has been most interesting to listen to the speeches to-night, giving all present an insight into the progress of the great manufacturing interest. Interesting to learn all these facts in regard to export or foreign trade, but gentlemen, it must be admitted that the home trade is the most profitable. Why not give more attention