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FREDERIC NICHOLLS,  
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J. J. CASSIDY,  
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**CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING.**

A SPECIAL general meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association will be held in the Board Room, over the offices of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition Association, on the Fair Grounds, on Wednesday, September 14th, at three o'clock in the afternoon, during the time of the forthcoming Toronto Exhibition. All members of the Manufacturers' Association, and all manufacturers who may desire to do so, are hereby notified and invited to attend.

W K McNAUGHT, *President.* J. J. CASSIDY, *Secretary*

**OBSERVE THE SPIRIT OF IT.**

In a recent issue of this journal, in alluding to the fact that the Dominion Government had not given due consideration to the oft-repeated requests of the manufacturers for some very much-needed modifications of the tariff, attention was called to the fact that although the Government's supporters in the House of Commons outnumber the Opposition two to one, many of them were elected by very narrow majorities, and that the change of a very few votes in the elections would

have changed the aspect very materially. We also showed that in many cases where Government candidates were elected by these narrow majorities it was through the votes and influence of the manufacturers, and that this element held the power to decide the politics of the member. Our contention was that, particularly in these close constituencies, the manufacturers should inform their members that unless they paid close observance to the necessities of their constituents, on the occasion of another election they would be allowed to retire to the shades of private life. With the complaisant backing of a two-thirds majority in the House the Government felt that they were safe in ignoring the requests of the manufacturers; while if the members whose election had been accomplished through and by the support of the manufacturers, had informed the Government that their votes could not be counted on when divisions were made in the House until the requests of their constituents had received due and proper consideration, no doubt much of the friction which now exists would have been avoided.

In the most friendly and conciliatory spirit towards the Government, and to those supporters of it in the House who were elected by these narrow majorities, we again call attention to the fact that those who make loud professions of loyalty and attachment to the N. P. would do well, while indulging in lofty platitudes and spread-eagle speeches, which may mean much or little or nothing, as the case may be, to understand that the very foundation and corner stone of the policy which has done so much for the prosperity of Canada, must be preserved, and that anything which may tend to its injury and disintegration removed afar from it. The principle of the N.P. is all right. There is nothing whatever the matter with it and those who are the friends of it can best aid its perpetuity by removing anything which may injuriously affect it. The N.P. is the production of human hands. The builders of it did the best they could in its construction, but defects and weaknesses are developed from time to time, and it should be the pleasure as well as the duty of its friends to correct these, not waiting for them to bring the structure to the verge of disaster, nor to allow the disaster to place the country in the political control of those who would bury it beyond the hope of resurrection.

If the Government and its friends think that they are entrenched behind an invulnerable majority that cannot fade away, they would do well to study the facts and figures recently published by Mr. Sandford Fleming, in which he points out the momentous results that may flow from the change of a few votes in a political contest. Alluding to the recent Provincial elections in Quebec, where 73 members were elected, 54 of whom were Conservatives, 17 Liberals and 2 Independents, he shows that it would have been possible for 804 electors, distributed over twenty constituencies, by reversing their votes, to have elected 37 Liberals, 34 Conservatives and 2 Independents; and that if in 32 constituencies 200 Conservative electors had changed their votes, the returns would have shown the election of 49 Liberals, 22 Conservatives and 2 Independents. The facts, as applied in Ontario, would show very similar results, as illustrated in one constituency where the Conservative candidate won his seat by a majority of only one vote.