

quire "Has the National Policy made you rich?" In respect of enameled ware the National Policy has certainly enriched Canada, in that it has established an industry that gives us articles essential in our household economy at prices that compare favourably with those of other countries, and that gives lucrative employment to hundreds of highly skilled Canadian workmen.

A BAD SLOPOVER.

Considerable interest has been aroused at the fact Mr. Wallace, the Controller of Customs, sending, as he had a lawful right to do, an expert to the United States to discover the fair market value in that country of certain lines of hardware that were being sent into Canada. Where an ad valorem duty is imposed upon an article, it is the duty of the Controller of Customs to satisfy himself that the invoice price at which the goods are imported is substantially the same as that at which they are sold in similar quantities in the country of production. The attention of the Controller had been specially directed to certain importations of scythes, the assertion being made that the goods had been undervalued; and to satisfy himself in the matter, and for the protection of the Government as well as honest importers, Mr. Wallace employed a gentleman of large experience as a manufacturer of scythes, to visit the manufacturing emporiums of the United States where such goods are made in large quantities, and discover the true market value in that country of such articles as were being exported from there into Canada. There was no question as to the technical knowledge of Mr. Hawthorne in the matter committed to him for investigation; but political enemies of the Government, have raised a denunciatory cry that because Mr. Hawthorne was connected in some capacity with the Welland Vale Manufacturing Co., of St. Catharines, Ont., who are manufacturers of scythes and other hardware, he was not the man for the occasion. He was objected to not because he was not a competent judge and expert in the business, but because, being connected with a Canadian concern in that line of business, he could not give an honest and unbiased opinion.

It may be said that importers who enter their goods at correct values have nothing whatever to fear from the Customs officers; but if, to save themselves the payment of as much duty as possible the goods are undervalued, it is the duty of the Customs officers to detect the fraud and to punish the offenders; and it is to the interest of honest importers, and to our manufacturers that this detection and punishment be accomplished. It is not surprising that Opposition politicians and newspapers should denounce the Controller of Customs in the matter, for such denunciations are their stock in trade; and it is to be observed that although Mr. Wallace and his agent, Mr. Hawthorne, have been so unsparingly abused, no charge has been successfully laid that any unfair thing has been done in the matter. It cannot be shown that Mr. Wallace exceeded his authority in sending Mr. Hawthorne to the United States to discover the market values there of scythes, and it cannot be shown that Mr. Hawthorne reported these values to be other than as he discovered them.

It is surprising, however, that a trade journal that professes to be run in the interest of the hardware trade of

Canada—our allusion is to Hardware of Toronto—should make most vindictive and unwarranted attacks not only upon the Controller of Customs and upon Mr. Hawthorne, but also upon the Welland Vale Manufacturing Co., its sneers extending to several other manufacturers whose names it does not mention. It tells us that Mr. Wallace made an egregious blunder; that as a successful business man it cannot be possible that association with his present confreres has robbed him of the mercantile sense he possessed in former days; that his ruling in the matter is iniquitous, and that the hardware trade in a certain city have expressed their intention of fighting the matter in the Exchequer Court to the bitter end. Regarding the Welland Vale Company and other Canadian manufacturers it says: "It has not yet come out how they worked the Government to secure the appointment of Mr. Hawthorne, but some of the trade say it was a part of a scheme in which several manufacturers were interested. By it they hoped to secure a complete monopoly of the trade by causing such valuations to be made as would effectually exclude foreign goods."

We have not yet observed that any hardware importing concerns have entered any suits in the Exchequer Court to have any rulings of Controller Wallace touching the undervaluation of imports of hardware declared null and void, nor to denounce his methods of obtaining information relating thereto. As we have stated, honest importers have nothing whatever to fear at the hands of the Customs officers. They know what the law is and they conscientiously observe it, and have no trouble in entering their imports, and therefore the journal alluded to cannot possibly be speaking for them. It looks, then, that if it is speaking for any importers whatever, if any such there be it is for those who desire to defraud the Government by undervaluing their imports. If such be the case Hardware is welcome to all the glory and all the gain it can capture in that direction.

Aside from the false insinuations Hardware makes regarding Mr. Wallace and his confreres in the Government, we must emphatically object to the malicious things it says regarding the Welland Vale Manufacturing Company, and the other manufacturers in the same line of business whose names it very wisely refrains from mentioning. The insinuations against them are as vile as false, and manufacturers generally will probably bear in mind the name and character of the journal that thus villifies them.

MEXICAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The Mexican National Exhibition that is to be opened in the City of Mexico in April of next year, should possess much interest for Canadian manufacturers. It is to be observed that while the Mexican market is being exploited to a rapidly increasing extent year by year by enterprising Americans, Canadian manufacturers and merchants seem to take but little interest in this very advantageous opening for trade. The following general lines of manufactures, produced to good advantage in Canada, are not produced in Mexico, and of these our manufacturers would do well to make attractive displays there:—

Electrical and steam machinery, hardware and tools, plated ware and cutlery, agricultural implements, well-