

the removal of the duties upon Yankee patent medicines and printing presses.

According to the report in the *Globe*, some discussion preceded the adoption of this resolution, during which the suggestion was made that baking powders and canned goods be included in the list, but Mr. J. B. McLean, of the *Canadian Grocer*, pointed out that injury would accrue to Canadian manufacturers of such goods. The *Empire* credits Mr. McLean with saying that "although a protectionist, he did not see any harm in reducing the duty on patent medicines, which would not injure any industry in Canada, but he objected to any interference with the duties on baking powder and canned goods." It might be borne in mind that the *Grocer* carries the ads. of some Canadian manufacturers of baking powders, and that Mr. McLean is secretary of the Canadian Cannery Association.

We are pleased to record the fact that at least two editors, members of the Press Association, made vigorous protests against the desire to convert the Association into a political machine, operating in the direction of the destruction of Canadian manufacturing industries and of the present fiscal policy of the Government for the most selfish ends; and we cannot too highly commend the remarks of Mr. P. D. Ross and Dr. Playter, both of Ottawa, in that direction. Mr. Ross showed that in going to the Government to ask for reduction of duties on these articles they would be asked why they deserved it, and that they would have to reply that it was because it was to benefit their pockets, and not for the general good; while Dr. Playter, in his contributed paper on "Patent Medicine Advertising," argued that the press should not lend its influence to inducing people to indulge in the ill-advised use of patent medicines. Mr. Ross is to be specially commended for his outspoken declaration that he objected to the Press Association going to the Government as the advocate of a special attempt to fatten the pockets of Canadian newspapers by deluging the Canadian people with unmeasured quantities of "rot-gut" Yankee products.

Among the many inconsistent positions taken by the Association was that in the passage of a resolution denouncing a certain class of medical advertisements "which offer immunity from the results of immorality," and such. Reference to some of the goody-good papers, such, for instance, as the *London Advertiser*, show that quack Yankee doctors who show "before and after" pictures of the awful results of "early indiscretions," and the happy and glorious disenchantment from such results through their treatment, are not objectionable from a moral standpoint, particularly when Yankee dollars glimmer in the perspective; and really there seems to be little difference in publishing such medical advertisements, as the *Advertiser* does, and which the Press Association denounce, and in publishing patent medicine advertisements which the Association are so clamorous for.

But the world abounds in fakirs who push their fakes for all they are worth; and, unfortunately, many members of the Press Association are of this class.

## CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATIONARY ENGINEERS.

THE recent meeting in Montreal of the Canadian Association of Stationary Engineers was a gathering of a class of men who are of much more importance to the manufacturing, industrial and other interests of Canada than many are aware of. They are the men who in our cities, towns and manufacturing centres have under their control and in their management a confined power which is most essential to the prosperity of the country, and without which we could enjoy no material greatness. If these men are sober, intelligent and capable, prosperity and success are results of their ministrations; if they are incompetent or careless the most dire results may characterize their ignorance or crime. How important, then, is it that every effort these men may put forth looking to their advancement in their profession; looking to the raising among themselves of their standard of excellence, should be recognized and encouraged not only by manufacturers and all who use steam, but also by the community at large. In these days of improved appliances when every large building has its own steam plant for heating and power purposes; when factories and industrial establishments where both ponderous and light machinery is actuated by the power generated in steam boilers; where, perhaps, unconsciously to most passers-by, even beneath the sidewalks upon which they tread, there exists an element which, by the carelessness of the attendant, might in a twinkling hurl them into eternity; it is well that whatever these men into whose control this great power is committed do in the direction of technical education should be recognized and encouraged; and also, that the suggestions they may make as to the creation and enforcement of laws for their protection and that of the community should receive the most careful consideration.

At this Montreal meeting, in a very vigorous and sensible address made in advocacy of a law licensing engineers having charge of stationary steam plants, and requiring the frequent official inspection of stationary steam boilers, Mr. O. E. Granberg, who is a man of large experience and is an inspector for a boiler inspection and insurance company, said:

We have general laws to protect life against the carelessness of those who handle drugs and poisons as well as powder and other explosives, and why should we not have a general license law for those who handle steam boilers which may be the most destructive element to life and property when placed in the hands of ignorant and careless men. I know of steam plants being run by men who know no more about the vast power and destructive elements contained in the boilers they neglect and abuse, than they do about the North Pole. To illustrate this I will relate a few circumstances that came under my observation. I called at a steam plant where they were putting up a second boiler, and the engineer asked me to place the safety valve at 60 lbs., that was all his cylinder would stand. I pointed to the steam gauge on the boiler in use at the time. It stood at 80 lbs. "Oh, yes!" he said, that is all right for one boiler, but I intend using two boilers connected together with 60 lbs. of steam on each that will give me 120 in my cylinder." And he appeared to pity my ignorance when I told him I could not see it and took considerable trouble to enlighten me on the subject. He knew how to add 60 and 60 together to make 120. I called at another plant and found the condenser stopped. I asked the reason and was told something was wrong with it—they got too much