

facture of them for us gives large employment to capital and labor to strangers in a far off land ; not to Canadians. Would it not have been well if the fathers of the N.P., had placed a heavy duty on steel rails? It might be said that doing so would have handicapped and retarded the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but an answer to this objection is that that railway was built largely by the Government, and that plenty of capital was ever ready to be invested in iron furnaces and rail mill plants if the Government had guaranteed the stability of the duty, or its equivalent, for a sufficient length of time, say twenty or twenty-five years. If this had been done at the time of Confederation, we would now be making all the steel rails we require, and all the pig iron as well ; and this means that of the 600,000 tons of manufactures of iron and steel we now import, most, or perhaps all of it would be made here in Canada. There are about 2,000,000 tons of rails now in use in Canada, the importations last year, duty free, being 199,575,264 pounds, or 100,000 tons, valued at \$2,204 085. What would protection have done for Canada in this matter? Consider the millions of tons of iron ore which would have been dug out of Canadian mines, the limestone, and coal, and the other things which would have been necessary in the manufacture of iron, the thousands of men who would have been employed in the industry, the increased business of railroads in hauling raw materials and finished products and the millions and millions of dollars which would have been expended at home instead of going abroad. As we have shown, last year we sent over \$2,000,000 to England to pay for steel rails which, if we had had proper protection, would have been made in Canada.

If Canada is ever to become industrially independent she must first insure the permanent establishment of her iron industries, for upon these much of her independence and greatness depends. Protection alone will do this. The *Globe* sneers at Sir Leonard's promise of a free trade cheapness in such fundamental articles as iron and steel. Sir Leonard promised these on condition that proper and sufficient protection should be thrown around them. No doubt the framers of the tariff thought they had afforded this protection, but events and time have shown that the duties upon them were not and never have been high enough. If protection was wrong *per se*, and if it is chargeable to protection the failure of the iron industry, as promised by Sir Leonard, to what policy is chargeable the failure of the steel rail industry to materialize? Certainly not to protection.

AS TO STATISTICS.

IN a recent issue, in discussing the necessity of a Department of Manufactures as a separate branch of the Government, allusion was made to the fact that while other large interests of the country were looked after by special and appropriate departments, the manufacturing interests had no such special representative, and that other departments looked after them and that only in a perfunctory manner. It was stated that the only information ever collected and published regarding our manufacturing interests was that given out every ten years by the Census Bureau, and that the necessity for a Department of Manufactures was emphasized by what

seemed to be the lack of grasp of the subject displayed by the Bureau charged with compiling the census statistics.

An officer of this bureau seems to misunderstand our position in this matter. He regards our remarks as an attack upon his bureau, and is slightly sarcastic in his remarks concerning what we said about "lack of grasp" of the subject displayed in compiling census returns. We have this to say in the matter. Any one who studies the statistical blue books issued from time to time by the Dominion Government, cannot but be impressed with the fact that they are the result of a vast amount of research and study, and a most careful and judicious arrangements of such facts as may be attainable. If these statistics are not always as complete and comprehensive as might be desired, the lack cannot in justice be attributed to carelessness or lack of interest on the part of the statistician, and we cheerfully corroborate the general opinion that he is the right man in the right place.

But however excellently the work of the statistician may be done, it does not follow that it is as satisfactory as it might be, and as far as the manufacturing interests of the country are concerned this work can never be entirely satisfactory under existing methods. We are aware that the compilation of this branch of the census returns is one of the most difficult of all the compilations connected with the census. We know that imperfect returns require correspondence involving delays, and that these make the task both slow and toilsome. We know that under the present system under which the compilation of manufacturing returns is necessarily carried on, it is absolutely impossible for these returns to be made as satisfactory as the manufacturers and the statistician himself might desire. But there is no reason why this condition of things should not be changed, and our desire to have a Department of Manufactures was, that under the operation of it all the important details of the manufacturing industries of the country, always fresh, comprehensive and reliable, would be always available for statistical and census purposes. If the census bureau or any other bureau, or any department of the Government had ever succeeded in gaining satisfactory information in this direction there might not be as great necessity for the desired department as now appears to us. As it is, there is no department specially charged with this business, and the fact that the statistical bureau nor the census bureau have ever yet succeeded in gaining the information desired, emphasizes the necessity for a more satisfactory arrangement.

The Government seem to have had some conception of the desirability of a new department to be charged in some special manner with looking after the manufacturing interests, for several years ago an act was passed authorizing the establishment of a Department of Trade and Commerce, but the plan has never eventuated. It only remains for the Government to put the machinery of this new department in motion, and if, in the organization of it, it includes all that would be desirable in a Department of Manufactures, there would be no necessity for the establishment of this latter. But it is to be supposed that a Department of Trade and Commerce, framed on the lines indicated in the act authorizing its organization, is not just what the Government now deem desirable, and it is to be hoped that if this department is not to be organized at an