

## THE COMMERCIAL

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### PURCHASE HOME MANUFACTURES.

At a recent meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, J. O. McLean of Toronto, referred to the matter of purchasing imported goods in preference to home manufactures. He thought an effort should be made to elevate the people as to the quality of home manufactures. "At present," he said, "we are importing \$110,000,000 worth of goods from the United States, much of which should be bought here." The people of this country do not know what fine goods and what a great variety of manufactures we make in this country.

While perhaps naturally enough much of the time of the annual meeting of the manufacturers was devoted to the tariff, we believe Mr. Thorn touched a point which might be acted upon to great advantage. Many Canadians are not loyal in the selection of their purchases. There is an idea abroad in the land that it is the "correct thing" to seek out the imported article when making purchases of various lines of goods. This idea is perhaps as prevalent as it was some years ago, but it still exists. If Canadians could be educated to give the preference generally to home manufactures, the benefit which our country would receive from such a policy would be almost incalculable. Our manufactures would at once be enormously increased, and our industrial population would be increased in like proportion. The result would be a great increase in the home consumption of the products of our farms, gardens, orchards, etc., to the great benefit of our agricultural population.

While we talk much about exports, after all the home market is the best one for our producers in almost every commodity. If our people could only be induced to give a loyal preference to home-produced goods, it would send the country a boost forward on the road to prosperity which would be felt throughout the length and breadth of the land, and in this prosperity all would share. The importance of the matter is such that it would seem nearly worth while making some organized effort to cultivate a loyal movement of this nature. The purchase of imported goods to the extent that it is carried on, is not a matter of necessity nor of advantage to our people, but many lines just as good and even better value can be obtained in the home-produced articles. Much of the preference for imported articles is simply a perverse notion which prevails with certain people. Canadians are making up a large foreign trade in some articles, in competition with

the world, and the goods are considered equal to the best, while at home some of our people profess to believe that they must have an imported article. There are some lines which are imported from largely to Canada, while our manufacturers of the same articles have a reputation in foreign markets for making the very best goods obtainable. This is so, could be conclusively proved to some extent at least, the preference for imported articles is unreasonable. If the people could only be made to feel that by the policy of selecting imported goods they are robbing themselves and their country of a much of the prosperity which would otherwise accrue to us, we fancy the situation would speedily be changed. It should not take a very great effort to convince the people of the disadvantage of importing so much goods which can be produced at home. A loyal movement to encourage home production and secure greater prosperity for our people, by giving the preference to home-produced articles and commodities would, we believe, readily receive the sympathy of the public, and would open the eyes of many people who quite thoughtlessly are working injury to their country by selecting imported goods when making purchases.

President P. W. Ellis, of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, has figured out that one man employed for every \$1,280 worth of goods produced, and that each person so employed, supports four persons. On this basis, our people would purchase home products to the value of \$50,000,000, instead of that amount of imported wares, we would have work at home for about 40,000 additional persons, representing an industrial population of 150,000 people, or equal to the population of one of our largest cities. This population would consume the entire production of hundreds of our largest farms, besides in turn making more work and business for other industrial and mercantile interests.

### LIQUOR LEGISLATION IN MANITOBA.

The decision of the Privy Council of Great Britain, the highest court of the empire, that the Manitoba Liquor Act is good law, and that the province possesses constitutional power to prohibit the sale of intoxicants, is the opening of an entirely new field of history in liquor legislation in Canada. Hitherto the law has obtained that the Dominion alone could prohibit, and that provincial legislation could only license, tax, and regulate.

The agitation for provincial prohibition had its birth in Manitoba, a little better than ten years ago, when the prohibitionists, hopeless as to early success in the Dominion arena, bombarded the Greenway government for a provincial enactment.

Hon. Mr. Greenway promised a plebiscite upon the question, which was taken in 1891. The result was a large vote of the electors, standing about three to one in favor of prohibition. If the political object of the plebiscite was to stave off a troublesome question, it was wretched diplomacy, for it gave new life and new hope to the advocates of prohibition. They made strong demands upon the government, to implement the pledge which accompanied the plebiscite, but again Premier Greenway proved himself a non-politician. If he had moved up the restriction upon the bar-room, which after all is the centre of temperance attack, he would have held the sympathy and support of the

rank and file, if not the leaders of the prohibition army, but his failure to enact any favorable legislation, rapidly ripened an aggressive prohibition sentiment, which demonstrated its political strength and tempted the Opposition, immediately before the provincial elections in 1897, to a position convention inserted a plank in its platform, promising that if the party were entrusted with power, a prohibitory law, to the full limit of the constitution would be enacted. How far this helped them in the elections, it is not easy to say, but the government was defeated, the Opposition returned, and the prohibition policy was a thing of practical politics. Hon. Hugh John Macdonald, the new premier, promptly proceeded to fulfill the promise of the party, and at the first session of the Legislative Assembly early in 1900, introduced and carried through the House as a government measure the now famous Liquor Act. It is not too much to say that the enactment was a surprise and disappointment to many supporters of the government, who regarded the party pledge as a mere political ruse to capture the temperance vote, and honorable citizens will have little sympathy with those who have been friends with their own posterity. The friends of the new legislation were thoroughly organized, and they were led by well trained and astute men, who could not be easily out-generaled in political diplomacy.

A new chapter was opened when the Act was attacked as to its constitutionality, and referred to the courts. The provincial court of King's Bench decided that the law was ultra vires, and many were ready to say that the temperance people had been disappointed, and the Act purposely made too strong, that it might be defeated in the courts, but the temperance people who had been consenting parties to the provisions of the law, seemed to be satisfied with the ground, and they insisted upon an appeal to the Privy Council. By special permission the appeal went direct to the Privy Council of Great Britain, without argument in the Supreme Court of Canada, and much time was saved.

The decision, which was made known on Friday of last week, seems to be very sweeping, although the full text has not yet been received. The Free Press says: "The decision is one which leaves the Act without a flaw in its perfect and entire validity." The Act may be brought into force at any time by proclamation of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, but it will not likely come into operation until the expiry of the present license year, on the last day of May next. The Act is a voluminous document, of more than forty pages of print, but it can be intelligently described in a few short paragraphs. It completely prohibits the sale of liquors for beverage purposes within the province. The only legitimate sales shall be for use in the arts, medicine and sacraments. These sales are entrusted to druggists who take out special licenses for that purpose, and the regulations are very stringent, and evidently framed with a view to make the purpose of the law attainable.

The penalties are severe. For a first offence against the Act, a fine not less than \$200 or more than \$1,000, with imprisonment for default, and for a second offence, not less than six months' imprisonment or more than a year. A licensed druggist, who is convicted twice also based his license and is disbanded from taking out another for three years.

Wholesalers and manufacturers are not prevented from keeping on hand or making liquors for export, but there are strict regulations for such undertakings to prevent sale for consumption in the province.

The law does not contemplate any interference with genuine private hospitality or use of liquors for the presence, use, gift, or distribution of liquors in clubs, offices, halls, places of business, public houses, boarding or lodging houses, or where there is any gathering, whether of any disorder. The clauses against giving or treating are particularly drastic.

In cases of accidents from intoxication, it is provided that in addition to other penalties, the person who sold or gave the liquor may be prosecuted for damages.

The machinery for enforcement is very elaborate, and in reading it one is impressed that the legislators anticipated difficulty and attempted to provide for every contingency. Salaries of the attorney-general's department, styled "inspectors," are charged with the enforcement, and information may be laid before police magistrates or county judges, in which case there is no appeal from convictions. Private citizens may give information to inspectors in confidence, and their connection with the case is not to be divulged. In a word, the responsibility for working the Act falls upon the machinery of the government and does not depend upon private prosecution, although the latter is not forbidden.

The decision of the Privy Council in upholding the Manitoba law, is likely to have a very important effect upon the temperance movement in all parts of Canada. The temperance sentiment is perhaps quite as strong in some of the other provinces as it is in Manitoba, and the temperance people will now become more aggressive than ever in demanding legislation. Prince Edward Island has already practically copied the Manitoba Act, and is enforcing it now. A number of convictions under it, were appealed to higher courts, and decisions were reserved until the finding of the Privy Council was known. Other provinces will undoubtedly follow and the experiment of suppressing the sale of intoxicants will no doubt be made.

### GOOD SETTLERS.

The large immigration of a good class of settlers from the Western States into the prairie regions of Western Canada, is one of the features of the present year. This class of immigration promises to speedily become the permanent element, if it has not already eclipsed all other sources in numbers. Settlers from these states are coming in all over our prairie country during the present year. They are a good class of settlers—practically all are farmers. They are familiar with prairie farming methods, and will have less to learn, or adjust to, than those who are coming from other countries. Many of these new settlers were formerly Canadians, or British subjects. You may remember the enormous immigration of Canadians into the Western States, and many of those who are coming north to our prairies are Canadians who moved to these states.

Years ago The Commercial frequently urged that more attention should be given to the western states in our efforts to secure settlers for our prairie region. The wisdom of looking to these states for settlers has been abundantly demonstrated. The movement which has now set in, is almost entirely due to the fact that our force within itself will tend to expand the movement. Those who come will write to their friends in this way the country will be advertised and more will be induced to come.