

foreign material. In view of this what necessity is there for the Government to pass by our home manufacturers?

The Montreal Journal of Commerce says: Canadian cement manufacturers feel hurt at the action of the Government in purchasing 11,000 barrels of Portland cement from the agent of a Belgian firm. They argue that Government expenditure should be made to benefit Canadian industry, and not to boom the cement mills and stove works of Belgium.

The St. Catharines Standard says: According to an Ottawa despatch, the Dominion Government has lately ordered a very large quantity of cement for use on public works from a Belgian firm. Why? It is a well-known fact that some of the best cement on earth is made right here in Canada, and the cement manufactured in this district has a world-wide reputation. Why then is it at all necessary to import cement from Belgium or from any other country? This is one case that does not look much like "protecting" home industries.

The Thorold Post says: Thorold is the seat of important cement industries, one establishment having been running for nearly half a century. The product has stood the tests of experts, and has received the higher credit of actual use in some of the most important public works in Canada and the United States. Canadians have heard much about a "national policy," and are heavily taxed on the necessities of life in the name of that great fad, yet the paternal government, which yearns over the "infant industries"—and keeps itself in power by protecting them—can go all the way to the continent of Europe to buy cement, leaving the native makers to close their works, and the barrel makers to go out of business.

However, what is done cannot very easily be undone, but in any future public works, such as the Trent Valley Canal, or any other canal, we consider the Department would only be doing just and fair by inserting in the specifications where cement is to be used the words "approved cement, of Canadian manufacture."

In conclusion we may say that the position taken by the CANADIAN MANUFACTURER on this question, is, that if our Canadian cement makers produce first quality cement in every respect, then the Dominion Government should in its works distribute its patronage as fairly as possible among them at fair business prices, and thus assist in keeping our own Canadian industries going, and our own Canadian workmen employed, in preference to assisting Belgium and the Belgians.

#### MR. LAURIER AND THE TARIFF.

Mr. Laurier has now made a number of speeches throughout the country in preparation for the general elections. Protection, he declares, must be destroyed root and branch, but we have no information as to the financial and fiscal policy by which he proposes it should be replaced. Is it to be a direct taxation for which no French-Canadian representative would dare vote? Is it to be a revenue tariff like that of 1874-8 and an attempt to reduce the receipts and expenditure of Canada to those of twenty years ago under totally different conditions and obligations? Is it to be free-trade with the United States and a slaughter market for American goods vastly greater and more important than that offered to the Republic in its revival from the hard times of the early seventies? Is it to be a policy of higher duties upon British goods as against the lower ones imposed upon American products?

Or is it to be effected in the manner indicated by his Winnipeg speech, from which we quote a paragraph very interesting to manufacturers:—

To get this money which will be lost if we take off some of the present taxation, and to make up the deficit which will arise, it will be necessary to get an addition from some other sources. This will be attempted to be done in this manner: In the first place there will be a difference made in the present tax imposed upon raw material which is to be used for manufacturing articles.

Now this seems to be a most important announcement. Does Mr. Laurier know what raw materials are? Henry C. Carey declares that "all the products of the earth are in turn finished commodity and raw material." Coal and ore are the finished product of the miner, but the raw material of pig-iron. The latter again is the finished article of the smelter, but only the raw material of the puddler. This product may be finished into sheet iron which again is but the raw material of the nail and spike.

But he may take a narrower interpretation than Carey's. The Hon. Abram S. Hewitt, a leading Democrat of New York, defines raw material as including "fuel, all food products, all materials to which no process of manufacture has been applied, all metallic ores and all waste products which are fit only to be manufactured." Senator John Sherman, the Republican leader, defines the chief raw materials as being "agricultural productions—namely, wool, flax, hemp and other textile grasses, hops, bristles and seeds." The remainder, he declares, are chiefly in metals, in ore or pigs, coal and marble. It is evident, therefore, that the higher taxation of raw materials, or the imposition of duties upon those not now taxed, and many of which we do not produce in sufficient quantities, must have a serious effect upon our Canadian industries. When to this is added free competition in the finished product, the result can be little short of fatal. It would be a double distilled dose of political poison for the manufacturers.

If Mr. Laurier means this to be his policy, the whole country should know it at once. Taxed wool and free American woolen goods; taxed coal and iron ore and free iron or implement manufactures; taxed cotton and free cotton manufactures; taxed wheat and free flour; taxed agricultural products and free tea and coffee and cocoa would indeed be a new policy. It would be worse than commercial union, worse than free trade with the world, worse than any industry-destroying proposition which even Sir Richard Cartwright in his attacks upon manufacturers as "robbers and thieves" has ever proposed. If Mr. Laurier does mean this he should explain his speech.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Canadian Manufacturer's Association are under many obligations to Mr. W. G. Parmelee, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, for a complete set of the tariffs of all the different nations of the world as published by the International Customs Bureau. Canada was entitled to receive only a certain number of copies of these tariffs—not enough to supply each Board of Trade in the Dominion, to say nothing of all the Custom Houses. The Secretary of the Manufacturer's Association will take plea-