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[OUR next issue will contain our usual instalment of artotype portraits of Captains of Canadian Industry. The festivities of the holiday season just past are chargeable with their invisibility in this issue.]

OURSELVES.

THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER, with this issue, enters upon the last half of the eighth year of its existence. It is not an experiment in the field of trade journalism, and it is well and favorably known among all the more important manufacturers and business men throughout the Dominion. An inspection of its pages demonstrates the esteem in which it is held by enterprising advertisers. That it is steadily improving in all the essentials of a representative trade journal is apparent. Its aims are not diffused in many directions, but are confined (1) to the special interests of Canadian manufacturing enterprises, and (2) to sustaining the Dominion Government in that distinctively National Policy which has made Canada the great manufacturing country it is to-day. We trust and believe that the patronage and support of friends heretofore extended to this journal will be continued and increased, enabling the management to still further extend and enlarge its sphere of usefulness. We suggest that those who may already be subscribers can still further advance their interests by subscribing for it for some of the appreciative ones who may be in their employ. It would be a useful and valuable present to a worthy employé, an apprentice, or some bright youth who would thus be informed of the steps Canada is constantly taking in her path to greatness. Aiming to be intensely practical, we have

no inclination to pad our pages with love stories or poetry, but the reader who follows us closely will learn about all that transpires in the country relating to the manufacturing industries. The subscription price is only \$2 a year.

CUSTOMS SEIZURES.

THE Montreal *Star*, speaking of the revenue from Customs seizures and what becomes of it, declares that the arguments of those who take the view that the system of rewards in connection with seizures is wrong in principle, and ought to be abolished. It states that the total receipts from Customs seizures in the fiscal year 1886-87, aggregated \$133,028, of which \$80,056 went to Customs officials and informers; \$30,000 was refunded, and \$20,000 found its way into the public treasury. It states further that "a number of officials actually made as much additional through their seizures as their salaries for the year amounted to, that is, they received double pay for doing the work which they were appointed to perform;" and that "it is inevitable that as long as Customs officials are guaranteed one-third of the spoils in successful seizures, partisans they will continue to be."

If the *Star* really meant to state that Customs officials and informers had been paid \$80,000 as their share of the penalties imposed upon violators of the Customs laws during the fiscal year 1886-87, it is mistaken, and in its own editorial contradicts itself. If these officials are allowed "one-third of the spoils in successful seizures," it certainly must have been that the successful seizures in the year alluded to amounted to three times the amount we are told was given for making the seizures, or over \$240,000. But the gross seizures that year amounted to but \$133,000, of which \$30,000 was refunded, making the aggregate penalties to amount to only \$103,000, one-third of which to the officials would be only about \$34,000. The *Star* should be more accurate and more honest. It should have stated what is actually the fact, that the difference which it says was paid to officials and informers for their services during the year under consideration and what they actually earned during that year, was fees upon seizures that had been previously made, some of them three and four years before, and not until that year adjudicated by the proper authorities.

Stress is laid upon the fact that some of the Customs officials actually made as much additional through their seizures as their salaries for the year amounted to. In this connection it should be remembered that while it is the duty of these officials to make these seizures, their influence in the matter ceases when the seizures are turned over to the Government, and that it is the Government and not they who decide whether the seizures are properly made and the amount of penalties, if any, attaching to them. These officials and informers are not in themselves judges, juries, and executioners in the seizures they make; and they well know that if they make seizures where there has been no violation of the law, they will get no reward for so doing, and that if such blunders are of frequent or unnecessary occurrence their prompt discharge from the service would be inevitable.

All civilized governments maintain corps of customs officers, detectives and informers, and Canada is no exception to the