

The conversion of grain into flour is not expensive, but it is a manufacturing process nevertheless; and the other items named credited under this head should assuredly be credited to manufactures. In all these items, and many others, their chief value is imparted because of the manufacturing processes through which they pass; and this being the case, they should have been classified as "manufactures," and not credited to other industries; and if this had been done, the statistics would have shown "manufactures" as being at least forty per cent. of the whole of our exports, instead of less than seven per cent. In many instances the classifications are absolutely wrong, as in crediting fine copper as the product of the mine; canned fish and lobsters to the fisheries; potash and dressed lumber to the forest; butter and cheese, dressed furs, and canned and preserved meats to animals and their produce; and canned fruits and vegetables, malt, and maple syrup as agricultural products. Such anomalies are exceedingly ridiculous.

Apart from the general value of the information which would be supplied to the manufacturers by a properly organized Department of Manufactures, it would possess special value to those engaged in both domestic and foreign commerce, as well as to the Government and Parliament. We now have no system by which this important information may be acquired; and there is no way of arriving at any even approximately correct estimate of the value of manufactured products of the country. The machinery of the Department of Agriculture may enable very close estimates to be made regarding the number of bushels of wheat that may be grown in any year, and the production of horses, cattle, sheep, swine, etc., but who can approximate to the value of any line of manufactures, or to the number of hands employed in the different industries? If these facts were known—if we could tell about the total value of our manufactured products, thereby learning what the home consumption really is, and enabling us to compare the facts with the importations from abroad of similar products—we would be able to demonstrate the full importance of our manufacturing industries to the country. To the ignorance existing on this subject may be attributed much of the prevailing sentiment in favor of free trade. The country has no proper conception of the vastness of its manufacturing industries and it can never have until systematic efforts are made to gather and collate facts concerning them; and this can never be done except under the auspices and by the authority of the Government. If such facts could be properly and repeatedly placed before the country, they would be educators which would so strongly impress their importance that the opposition to any system of policy on the part of the Government maintained to encourage and protect our manufacturing interests would virtually cease.

The importance of this matter is emphasized in the fact that much of the most important legislation of Parliament concerns the tariff with which our manufacturing industries are most intimately connected. In fact, our tariff laws are framed with special reference to their effect upon those industries; and yet we see our legislators and the Government constantly working in the dark, frequently at cross purposes, and under misapprehensions regarding the subjects under consideration, and absolutely without adequate means, or any means, of obtaining this information. A Department of Manufactures, properly organ-

ized, and equipped with intelligent and well-trained men, would be able to supply all the information required in this direction, and produce more facts, and more reliable facts, than the census bureau could possibly give. It could obtain even better results than those reached by the Department of Agriculture, for the reason that the fields of operation would be narrower, the individual industries being more compact and accessible.

PROTECTION.

THE *Toronto Globe* thinks there may be occult reasons for this journal pursuing the course it has anent the sugar duties, and it counsels us to look into other protected industries, and to come down upon those which in their place and measure are just as rapacious as the sugar men. It tells us:

The stereotyped plea of the protectionists, that though the prices levied upon the consumer are exorbitant, still it is his duty to suffer in pocket for the development of the country, has been knocked on the head by the census returns. Those returns prove to a demonstration that population is fleeing to escape the burden and to seek the employment which we cannot furnish because of our inability, cooped up as we are within a narrow market, to develop the natural resources at hand. Stripped of its disguise as a great patriotic engine, the N.P. is seen to be nothing more than a system for enabling the few to rob the many, as witness the sugar tariff; and to supply campaign funds to Tory Ministers for the demoralisation of the people. Morally speaking, it is no better and no worse than Langevin's plan for serving the same evil purposes, and unless all the signs are deceptive it will be bundled off the stage after Uncle Thomas and Langevin himself, at the first opportunity the people have of pronouncing an honest judgment.

We will explain, for the benefit of the *Globe*, that our objection to the sugar duties as they stand does not arise from any "occult" reasons, nor because we do not desire to see proper tariff protection extended to the sugar industry as well as to all other manufacturing industries, but because these duties violate, in our opinion, the very spirit and essence of the National Policy. And we again state what is that spirit and essence. In considering the proposition to extend tariff protection to any industry, that consideration should be debated upon its independent merits. As applied to the sugar industry it should be shown first that the industry cannot exist without protection in competition with sugar producers in any other country; and it should also be shown that the industry may become of enough importance to make the benefit of having it established in the country greater than the duty imposed upon the foreign article. We do not call in question the importance of the Canadian sugar refining industry, nor the necessity of protection to it. With cheaper labor in other countries, the cost of manufacture there is lower than in Canada; and with the cheap transportation by which merchandise is now moved, it would be impossible for our refineries to operate without protection. But while capital is an element to be fully considered in the matter, labor deserves greater consideration; and the National Policy was intended to bestow the greatest benefit upon the greatest number, not upon the greatest capital. We suppose that there is no human being in Canada who is not a consumer of sugar; and for sake of the argument, we admit that the duty increases the price. This then, implies that the duty is a tax which bears upon every one; and