

Government against the National Policy. Sir Oliver may be a very bad man in sending out an army of government employes to bull-doze the liquor sellers and all that sort of thing, as the Spectator says he does, but when he offers a bounty of a dollar per ton upon every ton of iron made in Ontario from Ontario ores, he is keeping close company with the National Policy and those who made and support it. If giving Sir Oliver credit for doing this makes THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER an enemy of the "Tory Government" as the Spectator suggests, why then those who are offended may make the most of it. This journal is not a hanger on or beneficiary of either political party, but a warm and ardent supporter of the National Policy and of the interests of Canadian manufacturers. To say that the Spectator bears false witness against this journal is putting it very mildly, when it alleges that in Ontario election campaigns THE MANUFACTURER opposes the Conservatives, or insults and derides them. To say so is to utter a wilful and deliberate falsehood; and our offer of considerable wealth to the Spectator, made on a previous occasion when it first gave circulation to this untruth, remains open. It is ridiculous, too, to assert that this journal tells or has ever told the Conservatives that not one cent of manufacturers' money will aid them in any Ontario election. This is another Spectator falsehood that it can make money by substantiating. This journal does not hold or control the purse strings of any manufacturer, neither has it ever sought to influence any manufacturer in Ontario politics. Abuse is not argument; and the Spectator is not helping the Conservative party by abusing this journal and bearing false witness against it in the interest of a few disgruntled, second-rate, would-be politicians who would like to bleed the manufacturers.

#### CONFEDERATION NOT TO BE SMASHED.

One of the most pungent rebukes that has come under our observation to the oft-uttered demagogical talk about the disruption of the Dominion if certain things do or do not happen, indulged in by politicians, is the following by "Mack," in Saturday Night:

Nearly thirty years have gone by since Confederation was accomplished—almost one-third of a century. To-day, from one end of Canada to the other, from the north to the south, from the east to the west, there is spread a population of millions to whom Confederation is not now, and never has been, an experiment. All those under thirty years of age feel inherently that the Dominion of Canada is as stable, as immutable, as indivisible as any country on earth. They cannot comprehend a Canada other than the federated Canada in which they were born, and they associate in their minds the conditions that immediately preceded Confederation, with the French regime, the troubles of '37, and the other phases of our formative growth that belong exclusively to times past and gone forever. Not only is that great half of the population which is under the age of thirty years—this hopeful and potential half—imbued with a spirit that would make the "smashing of Confederation" impossible, but as men only attain full citizenship at the age of twenty-one, we find that every man in Canada at or under the age of fifty belongs to the post-federal era. When they reached man's estate they found Confederation an accomplished fact. This means that those who regard the thing as an experiment, who feel it to be a contract entered into and termin-

able on due notice, are the men who are above fifty years of age. The efficacious majorities; the energetic multitudes who dominate politics, the men who transact the bulk of the country's business, who control and direct its commerce, bear its burdens and produce its wealth, are men unfamiliar with any other condition than that which exists.

Some great incalculable force plays a part in the work of nation-making and renders it impossible for any man or group of men in a fit of pique to cause the wheels to turn backwards. This great force may be nothing more nor less than the upgrowing of a new generation with a sentiment that is new and suited to the progress that has been made. Old men may wag their heads and say gloomy things, and campaigners who love strong phrases may talk of Confederation being smashed into its original fragments, but they are talking the jargon of a past time. The Dominion can be disrupted by nothing short of a revolution, and to this danger we are no more exposed than the most secure empire, kingdom or republic in the world. A voluntary union which has been preserved long enough for a new generation to almost entirely replace the old, is a union no longer based upon a signed parchment, but is indissoluble. Whatever of error time may cause to be discovered in the relations of any part of the people to the great bulk of the people, must be borne with while possible, and rectified if needs be, but if any attempt is made to disintegrate the Dominion the New Generation must speak out to the old men who pore over documents and regard Confederation as merely a contract in law. We must speak out and say that the experiment which they inaugurated in 1867 was a success and that God and nature have ratified it since, have taken it out of their hands, and that two or three millions of new Canadians decline to recognize any right or authority, written or unwritten, specifically set forth or cleverly implied, that would under any circumstances sunder this Dominion into its original parts. Inequalities should be adjusted; accommodation should be made for conditions that were not foreseen, but the thing that binds us all is a compulsion to hold the country together and make it great and good though we do it illegally, rather than destroy it, or submit to its destruction, by legal conformity to the sentiments and contracts of our fathers.

#### MR. EDWARD FARRER AND RECIPROCITY.

During the present week Mr. Edward Farrer, late editor of The Toronto Globe, appeared before the Ways and Means Committee of the United States House of Representatives at Washington, and delivered himself of the following argument showing why Canada cannot possibly live without reciprocity with that country. Mr. Farrer said:—

During the last few years Canadian imports from the United States have grown, while those from Great Britain have fallen off. The imports from the United States for the fifteen years 1881-1895 were \$752,000,000; the imports from Britain during the same period \$638,000,000.

American iron and steel is displacing British in the Canadian market, and there is a growing call for American machinery, and other manufactures, which are, in many cases, better adapted than British to Canadian conditions and requirements. With a liberal reciprocity treaty favoring American manufactures, there can be no doubt that the imports from the United States would rapidly increase, to the benefit alike of the Canadian farmer and the American