

the party by The Empire, presumably at the request of the Government; at which juncture Mr. Patterson said the Government had not authorized the attack upon Mr. McCarthy; that it was not suggested by any one connected with it; that it was not desired, and that the matter was one of annoyance. He further stated that only one member of the Government was financially interested in The Empire, and the original value of his stock was only \$500.

It was also stated at that meeting that the unfortunate attack upon Mr. McCarthy was not only not suggested or desired by the Government, but it had appeared unknown to any of the directors of The Empire Company, except one, a gentleman who seemed to have a reason other than political for attacking Mr. McCarthy. It was suggested that Mr. Thomas Long had inspired the attack. Mr. Patterson is reported as saying: "The assault was unauthorized, and was, from the point of view of the party, foolish and damaging. The paper does us great harm, although it was established to do us good. It convinces nobody, and is read by very few. It is a millstone around our necks, and the sooner the party gets rid of it the better."

From all of which it would seem that the recent meeting of the Toronto Conservative Association in the office of The Empire must have been an exceedingly interesting and entertaining event, but one at which no one at all familiar with the course of that journal should entertain any feelings of astonishment or surprise. It has always been a matter of surprise, however, that the founders of The Empire, with certain lights before them, should have entrusted the welfare of so important an undertaking into the hands of incompetent and inexperienced men; and it is still more surprising that, having discovered their mistake, they did not rectify it. Viewed from the standpoint of those interests to which this journal is devoted—those of Canadian manufacturers—The Empire has been a continuous failure. Viewed from the National Policy standpoint it has been worse than a failure. Professing to be the champion and friend of the manufacturers, it has proven itself unable to comprehend their political necessities; and its littleness and meanness has led it to studiously refrain, as far as it possibly could, from any recognition of even the existence of that organization to which the National Policy party owe so much, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

Under different conditions The Empire ought to prove a grand journalistic success; but before it can become such it must be lifted out of the backwoods methods that have brought it into the disfavor that now oppresses it. If it desires to be a consistent advocate of the National Policy it must abandon its constant tirades and abuse of that policy in another country. If it desires to obtain the respect of intelligent readers it must cease uttering foolish misrepresentations concerning matters with which they are more or less familiar. Under its present regime it may be difficult to effect these reforms; but its very existence depends upon their being made.

Since the foregoing was written an article has appeared in The Empire in which it is stated that at a meeting of the Liberal Conservative Association of Toronto held on March 12 the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, that this association, at the first meeting there-

of after the publication of an article in The Toronto Evening News in its issue of the 10th March, 1894, headed "Repudiates The Empire," wherein certain statements are contained alleged to have been made by the Hon. J.C. Patterson at a meeting of the association held in The Empire office on Wednesday, the 7th March, inst., hereby characterize the said article as a contemptible fabrication.

And this association hereby records its continued confidence in The Empire newspaper as one of the recognized exponents of the principles of the Liberal-Conservative party in the Dominion of Canada, and expresses the opinion that the Liberal Conservative party generally and particularly in this province, is greatly indebted to the said newspaper, for valued assistance to Conservative interests, and also to Mr. David Creighton and his editors for the able and efficient manner in which the said newspaper has been and is being conducted, and hereby resents the wanton and unscrupulous attempts of enemies of the Liberal-Conservative party to breed discord and attack the prestige and fair reputation justly enjoyed by The Empire.

This journal has nothing whatever to do with any disagreement that may exist between The Empire and other Toronto daily newspapers, and is entirely indifferent to any results that may accrue therefrom. What we have said, it will be observed, is based upon statements made in The Evening News; and if The Empire or the Toronto Liberal Association had made any direct denial of the facts as stated in The News, and had shown that Hon. Mr. Patterson and other gentlemen had not made the statements attributed to them, or that they had been misrepresented, this article would not have been published. We will never willingly or knowingly do any injustice to any one.

But the resolution of the Association goes no further in this direction than to declare that the article in The News is a "contemptible fabrication." There is no denial by or for Mr. Patterson that he had been misrepresented; and no fact as stated in The News is controverted or denied. Of course the Liberal Association have an undoubted right to go into the whitewashing business as extensively as they please, and to declare their resentment of what they term "wanton and unscrupulous" attempts to attack The Empire; but these sentiments are very diaphanous when viewed in the light of undisputed facts. The Empire professes to observe the ordinary proprieties of journalism, and to maintain that dignity that should be maintained at all times by respectable journals, but it falls very short of the mark when it speaks of other equally respectable newspapers as "a pack of yelping journalistic curs."

What the reading public is interested in knowing in this matter is, not whether The News or any other paper is a "yelping journalistic cur," but if Hon. Mr. Patterson is correctly reported in what The News declares he said, and if the charges are true.

#### TRADE AND NAVIGATION RETURNS.

The Trade and Navigation Returns for Canada for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, just issued, show the business of this country to be on a sound basis.

The value of the imports last year amounted to \$129,074,268, and of exports to \$118,564,352. The value of our aggregate trade reached a total of \$247,638,620, the largest in the history of the Dominion. It was \$6,260,177 in excess of the aggregate trade of the previous year, which was the then highest on record. The values of the