

unions to claim privileges relating to the government of businesses which practically mean the handing over of the management by those who have the responsibility to those who have not. It will ever be the aim of this Association to assist in the promotion of the very best feeling between master and man, and to encourage among our members, as much as possible, a policy of liberal treatment of their work-people, but the labor question is at present no part of our work. Should any occasion arise, however, that might check Canadian industrial development we could not stand aloof.

TRANSPORTATION.

But to turn to a new subject. There is no matter of more vital interest to our manufacturers to-day than the question of transportation, and we commend to the earnest attention of the Government the careful consideration of the best means of extending our transportation facilities. As yet only a very slight proportion of the produce of the farm, the forest, the mine, and the factory find their way to consuming markets abroad through Canadian channels. We commend to the attention of the Government the encouragement of Canadian shipping from Canadian ports, and with it also the encouragement of Canadian shipbuilding. There is no industry that requires the product of so many different classes as ship-building, and any aggressive policy in this direction should commend itself at once to the attention of the whole Canadian people.

EXHIBITION.

We would at the same time praise the active interest taken by the Government during the past year in assisting Canadian export trade by the handsome exhibits provided at the Glasgow and Pan-American Exhibitions. The expenditure involved at both these Exhibitions will, we believe, many times over repay itself to Canada during the next few years.

MEMBERSHIP AND INFLUENCE.

But I must now say a few words about

the Association over which I have had the honor of presiding during the past year.

We started the past year with a membership of 342, and I am pleased to announce to-day that we enter the new year with a membership of over 825. This increasing membership is widening the influence of our Association, which is continuing to attract members by the vigorous and aggressive manner in which it applies itself to all matters affecting manufacturers. We may now fairly claim that we represent the widest expression of industrial public opinion.

The serious consideration that has been given to the suggestions of this Association by our Legislators will give added strength and influence. Our increased membership supplies us with the funds necessary to continue the work with energy, to employ a competent staff, whose entire time is devoted to the interests of our members, and to provide roomy and well equipped general offices. I must here testify from personal observation to the large amount of time devoted, and valuable work accomplished by the Executive and other committees of our Association, whose voluntary service speaks volumes for their public spirit, interest in, and attachment to the Association. The reports of the various committees, which will be placed before you, will review at some length the work undertaken, and what has been accomplished.

GENERAL OBJECT OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The general object of the Association, first and foremost, is to serve our country faithfully and loyally, and, so far as is consistent with this, to help each other in the promotion of our manufacturing industries, and according to our By-Laws 1 and 2.

1. To secure by all legitimate means the aid of both public opinion and Government policy in favor of home industries and the promotion of Canadian manufacturing enterprises.

2. To enable those engaged in all branches of Canadian manufacturing enterprises to act