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J. J. CASSIDY,	}	Editors.
F. S. KEITH,		
D. O. MCKINNON,	-	Business Manager.
A. B. FARMER,	-	Subscription Representative.

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Index to Advertisers ..... Page 57

## FOR MANUFACTURERS TO THINK ABOUT.

The next regular meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association will convene at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, on September 24 instant, to be in session three days. A large attendance is expected. No matter of equal importance can be brought before the convention than that of the tariff. As shown from time to time in THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER, many Canadian industries are in a decadent condition, owing to the ill considered provisions of the tariff, for, according to recent government reports, between the years 1900 and 1905, about one-third of the manufacturing industries of the country show a decline in number of wage earners employed and a decline in amount of wages paid to them; and of the total number of industrial towns in Canada in 1900, 20 per cent. show great decline in value of output. This is a condition that demands the most earnest attention from every Canadian manufacturer in the country.

## FOOLS PLAYING WITH FIRE.

In the Canadian situation there are few dangers more threatening than the class antagonism which, either unwittingly or deliberately, may so readily be aroused. Fools scattering firebrands among inflammables are some, and their conduct harmless compared with the men who pose as leaders of the people, and who, sometimes ignorantly, sometimes for sordid and selfish reasons, fire the passions and aggravate the race hatreds of the crowd. The Oriental problem on the Pacific slope is an instance of fools playing with fire.—The Toronto Globe.

Truer words were never spoken. There are fools and yet fools who scatter firebrands, and some of these fools

pose as leaders of the people, and who, for sordid and selfish reasons, commit all sorts of acts, the results of which prove that they do not care who sink so long as their foolishness may be perpetuated and their desires gratified. We agree with The Globe that there was and is no sound reason for the Oriental outbreak in British Columbia by fools in that province, aided and abetted and led by other fools in American coast cities, all of whom should do long and exemplary time behind prison bars; but it is not difficult to see that some of the causes that led up to the disturbances had their origin in the Dominion Parliament and in the legislatures of some of the provinces. Class legislation is responsible for much of the trouble, and ill considered tariff laws are doing as much or more to place Canada in the unfortunate position she now occupies.

In season and out of season The Globe loses no opportunity to depreciate and destroy the fiscal policy of tariff protection that has done so much to build up every material industry of Canada; and it never seeks or takes the opportunity to denounce the policy that throws every imaginable obstacle in the way of our manufacturing progress. It advocates the bringing in of hundreds of thousands of immigrants to build railroads, and to help the farmers work and harvest crops, to which manufacturers offer no objection, although the expense thereof is paid from the general fund of the treasury to which manufacturers are liberal contributors, but it raises no voice nor helping hand to encourage and help the manufacturers in bringing in skilled labor from abroad. It approves of the action of the government in disclaiming the efforts of manufacturers to bring in skilled labor, even from Great Britain where the free trade government there has closed arsenals and workshops and left the best and most skilled workmen in the kingdom to become paupers and find refuge in work houses, while Canadian manufacturers find it impossible to fill orders because of lack of skilled workmen; and it thinks it a huge joke when foreign workmen are brought in to see them deported and the manufactures made to pay heavy fines for doing so. This is typical of the fools the country has to contend against.

And what is to be said of those who decry the tariff and deprive Canadian labor of the occupation that they should devote to the production of the millions' worth of goods that are now being rushed into Canada, the products of the pauperised labor of Great Britain, Germany, France and other countries? According to The Globe and the government it so much admires, foreign trade is made the sine qua non of Canadian commerce, and millions of wealth is paid out annually in bonuses and subsidies to foreign shipping to carry away much of the products of the country that ought to be consumed at home. and to bring in to Canada millions worth of manufactured products made by cheap foreign labor, the production of which deprives Canadian labor to that extent of their means of subsistence. This is a class of fools that are playing with fire that is destroying the prosperity of the country. It tells us with great glee that it was only a year or two ago since it was announced with exultation that the total trade of the Dominion would not be many million short of half a billion dollars—that the total trade for