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THE NATIONAL POLICY.

If the persistent attacks of the avowed enemies of tariff protection to Canadian manufacturing industries, and the unwise expressions of its fool friends could have demolished our existing fiscal system, it would have been knocked into smithereens and scattered throughout etherial and boundless space, quite after the manner of the tail of the comet that swept across the heavens in the neighborhood of this earth a short time since. But these attacks upon it have been persistent ever since Sir John Macdonald gave us the National Policy, and they have been directed at it by such a great and varied host of hair-brained cranks, with such uniform fatuous results, that we would really become afflicted with ennui if we could not become somewhat interested at what is being said. These continued attacks reminds us of the roar of the surf as the wild waves beat against the rock-ribbed shore. There is much noise and froth and foam, but the rocks remain where they were placed, and the furious storm and the placid murmuring of the wavelets alike do not disturb their position. The fortress of protection does not totter to its fall, although for years and years we have been told that it is

doing so. The masses do not anticipate a collapse, although free trade orators constantly tell us that a great tidal wave of public opinion threatens to destroy the very foundations of a system which has made us a great and important people. The timorous ones, poor weak souls, become frightened at the sounds of fury which the enemy are bellowing forth, and through sheer anxiety for their own bread and butter, tremble at a nightmare. They forget that brave men never become rattled in the presence of danger. We are more than thankful to say that the outlook for the maintenance of the National Policy is much brighter now than for some time past. We have a man at the head of affairs at Ottawa who is, we believe, a devoted adherent of our existing system, and who, having the courage of his convictions, will deliver the country from the toils in which the enemies of protection would entangle it. As this journal has persistently and consistently contended, the friends of the National Policy should be the ones who should correct the anomalies which exist in it. We do not shut our eyes to the defects. We know they exist. We know that the welfare of the country demands that the defects should be removed. We do not wish unfriendly hands to use the knife. They must not be allowed to do it. The friends of protection must be the ones. We must not rely upon ex-school masters, theorists and abstractionists, but upon men who, with keen practical knowledge of the necessities of Canada, understand what is best for her interests. Canadian manufacturers will uphold the Government as long as the Government stick to the principles and declarations upon which they were elected to office.

TO BOOM TORONTO.

A FEW weeks ago at a meeting in the City Hall, Toronto, at which a large number of prominent gentlemen were present, attended by considerable enthusiasm, birth was given to the Citizens' Industrial Association. The meeting was called to consider the fact that manufacturing industries in Toronto were not in a flourishing condition, and to devise ways and means for encouraging those to remain which were already located here, and to induce others to come. As reported in this journal at the time, a large amount of wind and gush was ejected from the mouths of the speakers, going to show that Toronto possessed superior advantages for manufacturing purposes; that there was a good and sufficient demand for the products of as many establishments as could be conveniently crowded into our boundaries, and that the raw materials were cheap and within easy reach. From what many of the speakers said it might fairly be inferred that the passage of a few well worded resolutions, plus the enthusiasm and the speeches, would be all that would be required to make Toronto the rival and equal of Sheffield, Birmingham, Pittsburgh, or any other manufacturing city in either the new or the old world. Some formalities were to be observed, of course, including the organization of the association and the appointment of a few formal committees, the duties of which were to be merely perfunctory. It is very true that a number of manufacturers were present, some of whom indulged in speech-making, but it required no very extraordinary keenness of vision to discover that the management of the association was not to be in the