

our manufacturing industries are of small importance compared with our mining, our fishing, our timber cutting and our farming operations—it could not do so more effectually than by pursuing the system now in vogue in the statistical bureau. The fisheries industries are looked after by a Minister of Marine and Fisheries who does not object to seeing as many manufacturing industries credited to his department as possible; and the Minister of Agriculture also feels a laudable desire to magnify the importance of his Department at the expense of the manufacturing industries, while it is left to anybody or nobody to gather, collate and publish statistics regarding what is undoubtedly one of the most important branches of industry of the country. It is true that provision is made for the establishment of a Department of Trade and Commerce, and it might be imagined that this Department might be charged with the conservation of the interests of manufacturers: but it has never been organized, and therefore the manufacturing industries of the country are not and cannot be benefited thereby. But if this Department of Trade and Commerce were fully organized and in operation there is no guarantee that it would pay any more attention to the interests of the manufacturers than is now paid by the Departments of Customs and Inland Revenue, which was intended it should succeed, and it is difficult to see how this vast interest—the manufacturing interest of Canada—can or is likely to receive the attention it should at the hands of the Government, except it be by and through a Department of Manufactures. The necessity of this Department is emphasized by what seems to be the lack of grasp of the subject displayed by the bureau charged with compiling the census statistics. The information doled out to us from time to time from the bureau consists largely in guessing and surmising as to why the population is not larger than it is, and why the cities and towns grow more rapidly than the country; but we are kept in the dark as to the volume of capital invested in any manufacturing industry, the number of hands employed therein, and the value of the output therefrom. Nothing would tend more to the aggrandisement of Canada than to be able to show these facts, and to compare them with the facts relating to the importation into the country of similar products manufactured abroad. Our statistician can tell us to a yard the quantity of textile fabrics imported, and if he could tell us with equal exactness the quantity manufactured in Canada we could easily and correctly estimate the importance of our textile industries, and whether there was a reasonable prospect or not for their extension. Why not have this information? We could have it if we had a department of the Government whose duty it was to obtain and publish it.

The fact is the work of gathering and compiling statistics regarding our manufacturing industries should be brought within the control of a permanent department of the Government, where a properly organized system would be pursued in making investigations and preparing and publishing results. Under such a system, trustworthy and uniform in its operations, the work of gathering and compiling statistics would not be pursued at haphazard by branches of other departments acting upon divergent plans, but would be brought within the control of an intelligent and responsible head, affording the information so much to be hoped for.

A proper performance of the work here suggested would require all the aid and experience that only a well-organized

system could give—aid and experience in sifting, classifying and collating the material that could only be obtained in the manner here indicated. Under the existing system there is a needless waste of energy which it is not wisdom to continue. What is needed to avoid this is the keeping enough trained men in continuous service to keep the machinery of this Department always in working order.

By all means let us have a Department of Manufactures.

MR. CARLING'S SPEECH.

HON. JOHN CARLING, Minister of Agriculture, made a speech at the West York Agricultural Fair at Woodbridge, a few days ago, in which he said that reciprocity with the United States in natural products would be a good thing for the Canadian farmer, but that our proposition for such reciprocity had not been fairly met by that country. The *Toronto Globe* challenges this assertion, and in inquiring what Mr. Carling meant by "not being fairly met," points to the fact that in 1890 our imports from the United States amounted to \$52,300,000, of which no less than \$21,700,000, or 40 per cent. of the whole, were admitted duty free. On the other hand something less than 22 per cent. of all our exports to the United States are let in free—that the Americans can do without the natural products of Canada better than we can do without their natural products.

In the discussion of this subject much depends upon what is considered "natural products." A very large portion of the Canadian products going free into the United States consists of saw logs, and lately of nickel ore and matte; and a very large portion of the American products coming free into Canada consists of raw cotton. We cheerfully agree with the *Globe* that we cannot very well do without American raw cotton, and in this respect we are in the same boat with Britain, and many other countries; but we deny that the United States can do without Canadian saw logs, and we know that our nickel is indispensable to them. But there are many other natural products that are common to both countries, and in these the United States is quite able to supply herself from her own resources, and to enable her own producers to do so she levies high duties upon similar articles imported from Canada. In this latter class may be enumerated horses, sheep, barley and eggs; and in these articles that country is quite able to supply its domestic demand, even though not a dollar's worth of them were ever exported from Canada. This being the case, the United States claims to be acting entirely in the interest of her home producers in imposing the McKinley tariff against Canadian importations; and if that country is not disposed to reciprocate with us in natural products, we can but accept the situation and help ourselves as best we can. Mr. Carling does not tell us how we are to compass this reciprocity; the best encouragement that he can offer to us is to hope for its accomplishment, trusting that some sort of softening influences, which he does not describe, may induce our Yankee neighbors to be a little more neighborly towards us, and that in the meantime we must cultivate our trade with Great Britain. This latter suggestion is good and should be acted on; but we have many natural products that we cannot sell to advantage to Britain, and we must sell our surplus to the United States or not at all. It is folly not