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THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association is an organization, not for the support of party but for the support of principle. It has been abused and berated throughout the length and breadth of the land, time and time again, editorially and on political platforms from Halifax to Vancouver. It has been charged with dictation to the Government at Ottawa, with undue influence exercised to secure improper favors from the Dominion parliament, and with even bribing the Government by tremendous contributions to what the

Liberal press used to term "The Reptile Fund." The charges that the Association was simply an organization to further the political ends of the Conservative party have disappeared from public view. Perchance those who were wont to iterate and reiterate those charges have arrived at a correct understanding of the facts and are in possession of knowledge that the Association is not associated with the Conservative party, and is not associated with the Liberal party, that it has never had, and never sought to have, any iota of political control over its members, but simply attended to its own affairs and endeavored to secure recognition of its principles by every fair means in its power.

The political bias of every member of the Association is not by any means difficult of discovery. The gentlemen who compose that body do not need to be searched out with a telescope in any community. They are the first men whose names the enquiring stranger will hear in business circles. They are men of affairs. They are men whose opinion is consulted in every matter of public interest. They are the men whose names are to be found in the nomination papers of the business candidates in our various elections. He who runs may read, and no man with a desire to be correct or to be fair will commit the error of charging upon the Association affiliation with, or subjection to, any political party. The gentlemen who compose the Conservative party have not a monopoly of the various manufacturing interests of the country. No more have the Liberals. And the Association has a membership composed of gentlemen of both political parties, but united with the one idea of furthering, as best may be, the manufacturing interests of the Dominion of Canada.

Any political influence the Association may have is of a very practical nature. That it has political influence is not for one moment to be denied. There is no reason for such a denial, nor yet is there reason for denying that its political influence has been made use of for its own ends. The question lies in the nature of its influence and the manner of the use of that influence. In the first place, the political influence of the Association is at the polls and there its extent is limited by the number of its members who have votes. In the second place, it has an influence commonly called political but really industrial. This is limited only by the Government's estimation (as correct) of the opinions held by the Association. Like any other body of men, the Association lays its opinions before the Government. In so doing they are acting within their right or that of any other organization, or even of any individual. The individual standing of the members of the Association as citizens whose experience, and, in degree, whose success, warrants the assumption, or, better, the conclusion that their advice is sound, or is worthy of consideration, determines whether the Government's action shall be along the line which the Association favors. The Association desires a protective tariff for the protection of manufacturing interests in the Dominion of Canada, and cares not whether such a tariff be granted by a government over which presides Sir Charles Tupper, or a government whose premier is Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It is the principle, not the man, it is protection, not party, that is the constant aim of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

Recently in the city of Toronto occurred an example of the independence of the Association. Their influence was exerted