



Published on the First and Third Fridays of each Month

BY THE

Canadian Manufacturer Publishing Co.

(LIMITED.)

63 FRONT STREET WEST, TORONTO.

FREDERIC NICHOLLS,
Managing Director.

J. J. CASSIDEY,
Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION. - - - \$1.00 per year.

ADVERTISING RATES SENT ON APPLICATION.

OFFICERS OF THE

CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

- President - - - - - W. K. McNAUGHT.
- First Vice-President - - - - - JOHN BERTRAM.
- Second Vice-President - - - - - P. W. ELLIS.
- Treasurer - - - - - GEORGE BOOTH.
- Secretary - - - - - J. J. CASSIDEY.
- Chairman Executive Committee - - - - - FREDERIC NICHOLLS.

OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATION :

63 Front Street West, Toronto.

THE MANUFACTURERS' PROTEST.

At the recent meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the preamble of the following resolutions set forth several obvious facts bearing on the subject, the resolution being as follows :

Resolved.—That the Canadian Manufacturers' Association is most decidedly opposed to any change in the policy of the Dominion Government which would subject Canadian manufacturers to the unequal competition of any foreign manufacturers.

Resolved.—That this Association would most strongly object to any arrangement being made by the Dominion Government with any other Government by which there would be any trade discrimination whatever against Great Britain.

Resolved.—That the existing National Policy of Protection to Canadian manufacturing enterprises is well suited to the needs of this country and has proved of advantage to all classes of our people ; therefore this Association now places itself upon record as opposed to unrestricted reciprocity with the United States in manufactured products.

The "unequal competition" alluded to, means this : Canada is a comparatively new country as regards the manufacturing industries. But a few years ago she adopted the present policy of protection, and under it she is rapidly advancing in material wealth and prosperity. To a large extent she is manufacturing at home many articles which were formerly imported ; and to a large extent she is consuming at home, in her manufacturing industries, many articles which were formerly exported. Under her policy of protection thousands of work shops, factories and industrial establishments have sprung into

existence, giving employment to tens of thousands of workmen who would either have been in idleness or competitors of those employed in agricultural and kindred pursuits. These tens of thousands of workmen, on the other hand, are consumers of a very large portion of what those employed in agricultural pursuits produce, creating a profitable home market where no market at all before existed. Any change that would disturb this equilibrium—any thing that would injuriously affect the manufacturing element of Canada—anything that would deprive the agricultural element of Canada of the large and profitable near by home market—would be embraced in the phrase "unequal competition."

It is claimed by the advocates of unrestricted reciprocity that the agricultural element, and all other elements in Canada should be allowed to buy and sell in the open markets of the United States, and that to prevent this is to grant favors to Canadian manufacturers by which they are becoming rich, at the expense of the rest of the country which is becoming poor. No one denies that the United States is a great and prosperous nation—no sane man will deny that that greatness and prosperity were attained under almost exactly such conditions as now prevail in Canada—that protection did it. That policy which has added so much to the importance of the United States will do as much for Canada if allowed the same opportunity. There the manufacturing industries have attained greater perfection, many of them than anywhere else in the world. With all the facilities that wealth can supply they have absorbed their own market and are ready to absorb any others they may find ready access to. Without the intervention of the tariff they would soon absorb the Canadian market to the destruction of Canadian manufacturing industries. If Canada proposed giving herself up to her rival—if she had no high aspirations for the future in which are embodied hopes for national greatness and independence—if she is anxious for annexation and assimilation with the Great Republic, then there could be no surer nor quicker way of gratifying this desire than by unrestricted reciprocity.

What is said regarding American manufacturers may also be said with more or less force regarding the manufacturers of Great Britain, France and Germany. Those are old countries in which the arts and sciences attained perfection long years ago. The land teems with population with whom it is a life and death struggle for bread. The common people—the laboring classes—are pauperized ; and they gladly sell their labor at prices unheard of in Canada. Do the laboring classes of Canada want to work in unrestricted competition with these ? We think not, yet that is precisely what free markets and cheap goods mean. With unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, or free trade with the world as some desire, if the Canadian manufacturer continued his operations it would of necessity be with labor as cheap as the cheapest with which he had to compete. Therefore Canadian manufacturers are opposed to the unequal competition of any foreign manufacturers in the United States or any where else.

The Association objects to any arrangement for any sort of reciprocity by which there would be trade discrimination against Great Britain. Whatever necessity may have existed in the past for a reciprocity with the United States whereby such discrimination was made or contemplated, it does not