

the act effective for its purpose." Of course, the shipbuilders want the wording of the Act changed, so as to tax foreign vessels not of British register.

In regard to another matter the deputation made strong representation. This was in reference to supposed laxness in the administration of the coasting laws. By section 2, chapter 83, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, it is provided that "no goods or passengers shall be carried by water from one part of Canada to another, except in British ships," and save in the case of vessels belonging to a foreign nation whose navigation laws permit Canadian vessels to ply between its ports. In 1899 the Canadian Government suspended this law for the season, in order to enable American vessels to assist in carrying grain from Fort William to other Canadian ports on the lower lakes. Last year it gave permits to American tugs to tow saw-logs from the mouths of Canadian lumber streams to Canadian points on the lakes where there are saw-mills. At present, it is said, American vessels are participating in the Canadian coasting business. To this shipbuilders and shipowners object, maintaining that since their ships are excluded from the American domestic trade, so American vessels should be kept out of purely Canadian trade. And they also doubt the power of the Government to suspend the law.

All other conditions are in favor of the development of a very flourishing shipbuilding industry and merchant marine. In the North-West, settlement is becoming denser, farming is becoming more scientific, diversified and productive, and every year a greater outpouring of freight comes from there. The railway system of Manitoba and the Territories was far from equal to the handling of the crop before the close of navigation. A new outlet, paralleling the Canadian railroad, namely, the Canadian Northern, will make Port Arthur a busy grain shipping point next year. The merchant marine will need to grow fast in order to catch up and keep up with the tonnage that is to be handled.

THE TORONTO EXHIBITION.

Now that money is being expended with a liberal hand in the erection of new buildings on the Exhibition Grounds, and the reconstruction and rejuvenation of old ones, it is to be hoped that Canadian manufacturers generally will, in their own interests, and from patriotic motives as well, proceed immediately in the preparation of specimens of their skill for exhibition at the forthcoming Fair. This work should not be delayed; and the Exhibition authorities should, as soon as possible, announce their readiness to show floor plans of the buildings, and manufacturers should be equally ready to indicate locations and extent of space they will require.

It is announced that the Fair of 1903 will assume the dignity of a Dominion Exhibition, towards which not only the Dominion Government will be requested to contribute, but also all the provinces from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This is well; for certainly Canada is at this time in good condition to make such a show of her material resources as would attract the attention of the world. But we would suggest that it would be in their interests if manufacturers from all sections would, in anticipation of the 1903 event, prepare exhibits and show them at the 1902 Fair. They would thus learn the ropes, as it were, and, being better acquainted beforehand with the requirements of such an event, be the better prepared to meet them in a way that would prevent the possibility of disappointment next year. Therefore let those who would be possible exhibitors at the Dominion Exhibition of 1903 make preliminary exhibits in 1902.

No doubt at each event there will be elaborate displays of live stock, horses, agricultural, horticultural and dairy products, etc., for this is always done; and now that special and elaborate arrangements are being made in the way of new buildings for exhibiting dairy products, and for exemplifying the methods of production, these features of Canadian industries will be exceedingly attractive; and not to fall behind in the attractiveness of our manufacturing exhibits, special efforts should be made to place them on a higher plane than ever before.

The exports of all kinds of Canadian products are increasing by leaps and bounds, those under the general denomination of "manufactures" being of an exceedingly creditable character. The Toronto Fair attracts many thousands of visitors to this city every year, large numbers of them coming from the United States, and it is through these visits that the greatness of Canada is, to a certain extent, made known.

DISTANCE LENDS ENCHANTMENT.

In his address at the banquet of manufacturers in Montreal, Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance, stated it as his opinion that the people of Canada do not do their duty towards the industries of the country in their purchases of manufactured articles. "It is," he said, "a misfortune that they should still hang on to the old idea that a thing must be better if it is only brought from a distance. I know how prone people in Canada are to buy foreign goods, not because they are any better, but because that seems to be the right thing to do—to buy goods that are imported." It did not seem to occur to Mr. Fielding that he had very much to do in bringing about the circumstance of which he so justly complained; and most probably he would not have alluded to it if he had not been aware of a condition now too prevalent in Canada that works to the disadvantage not only of our manufacturing industries but of the country generally. It seems to be the policy of the Minister, not so much to encourage and build up our manufacturing industries as to, as he believes, give cheap goods to the consumers; his opinion being that it is better to give the people cheap goods by importing them from abroad rather than by making them at home. It is the old argument of protection vs. free trade. The Minister believes in free trade and practises it as far as he can in tariff matters, a result of which is that the products of the cheap labor of other countries find easy entrance into Canada to the discouragement of the production of similar goods made in Canada. It is the opinion of Mr. Fielding and many others, that the prosperity of the country should be measured by the amount of trading that is done with other countries; but to our mind the country cannot be in the highest condition of prosperity until it produces at home everything necessary for the comfort of the people possible to be produced, importing only those things that we cannot with advantage make ourselves; and until we export only such things as we cannot consume at home. This covers the entire argument in favor of tariff protection. Under Mr. Fielding's tariff the import trade of Canada is going ahead by leaps and bounds, and he and those who think with him contend that the country is in the highest degree prosperous, but at the same time the Minister observes the fly in the ointment when he finds occasion to chide the consumers of the country for giving preference to foreign goods instead of to those made at home. And manufacturers sit around banqueting tables and applaud. It is audible to teach that preference should always be given to home enterprise; but that teaching should be not only to prefer home made goods, but also to discourage the importa-