



ESTABLISHED IN 1880.

PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAYS OF EACH MONTH

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

CANADA AND UNITED STATES, - - - \$1.00 PER YEAR.  
ALL OTHER COUNTRIES IN POSTAL UNION, EIGHT SHILLING  
STERLING PER YEAR, INCLUDING POSTAGE.

**The Canadian Manufacturer Publishing Co., Limited.**

McKinnon Building, Cor. McIlwain and Jordan Sts., Toronto.

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**THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS WORK.**

In view of the fact that the regular annual meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association will occur next week, it may be well to allude to the work it should undertake. Capital is now well and profitably employed; all machinery and appliances for manufacturing is kept in full operation; prices for manufactured articles are remunerative; labor finds steady employment at satisfactory wages; no man is idle who seeks employment, and contentment and prosperity go hand in hand.

There are numerous causes that contribute to the conditions that environ us, one of the most potent of which is that no uneasiness is felt by our manufacturers or by the country generally regarding the tariff. Time was, and that until quite recently, that grave apprehensions were constantly entertained that each succeeding session of the Dominion Parliament would make changes in our fiscal system that would not result in as much good as might be hoped for; and the Association might very properly be reminded that the very cause that brought it into existence was a desire to have accepted as a fixed policy of any government of the country the theory of adequate tariff protection to our manufacturing industries. A quarter of a century ago, when the Association was brought into existence, Canada did not enjoy such a policy, and our manufacturers did not enjoy either in profitability of investment or extent of home market the full measure that they believed they were entitled to. Hence the organization of the Association; and the man is indeed blind who cannot see that the influence of it was an important factor in educating the people to understand that the prosperity of the country was largely dependent upon the observance of a policy that would to as great extent as possible, enable us to produce within our own borders articles that were required for our existence and comfort, and to supply our wants from our own workshops and factories. We have cause for thankfulness that after many years of persistent endeavor we find that the theory of adequate tariff protection has become so impressed upon the country that even a change of government does not affect it. Undoubtedly protection is here to stay; and we may congratulate ourselves that however political parties may struggle to gain office or retain power, no differences can possibly exist between them looking to any violent change of the tariff system we now have.

And while this desirable condition prevails, the Association should be warned that eternal vigilance is the price of tariff protection, and that it is quite as important at the present time to preserve the organization with this special object in view as it was to bring into existence in the first place, or to perpetuate it through the intervening years. It would be suicidal for manufacturers to forget the vigils and vigilance of the past, and to relapse into feelings of fancied security because prosperity now crowns their efforts.

But in maintaining the organization of the Association, it should not be forgotten that the rapidly changing economic conditions of the country imperatively demand the addition of new features, and the adoption of such aims and objects as may be necessary to enable it to meet the requirements of the present. It must become active in devising and engrafting new ideas and new plans for the advancement of the interests of its members; and if it does so it will find its duties divided into two general groups, viz:—

1. To promote the interests of Canadian producers in their own country:
2. To promote the extension of Canadian trade with other countries.

These propositions involve the advocacy by the Association of the enactment of laws regarding bankruptcy that will be uniform in their enforcement throughout Canada:

The improvement and simplification of our patent laws and laws relating to trade marks and copyright:

The uniform customs appraisement of merchandise:

The uniform classification of freights on all routes of transportation:

The establishment and maintenance of a cold storage system in all commercial centres where necessary, and on railroads and steamships:

The improvement of our natural waterways, the creation of necessary artificial waterways, and the extension of railroads and all other similar routes of transportation, according to the requirements of the country:

The improvement and extension of service of Canada's Commercial Agents in other countries:

The extension of our foreign trade relations as far and as rapidly as possible in the interest of our home industries:

The obtaining of the greatest possible benefit from our preferential trade arrangement with the Mother Country and sister colonies:

The encouragement of commercial reciprocity with other countries according to the requirements of equity:

The supplying to the fullest extent possible, the demands of our home market with the products of home labor and enterprise:

Assistance to our manufacturers and other producers, and to our merchants in securing foreign markets in which to sell their merchandise:

The establishing of a Bureau of Information for the benefit of all who may desire to avail themselves of its advantages, looking to both the export and import trade of the country:

Assistance to foreign buyers in establishing desirable business relations with Canada:

The supplying of reliable reports upon trade conditions in foreign markets:

The furnishing of special lists of names of importers, mer-