

THE SHAREHOLDER.

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THE NATIONAL POLICY.

THE opponents of the National Policy have made the announcement that it is to be put on its trial. This is good news for those who uphold it. The country is to be called upon to express its opinion. The electors are to have their memories refreshed. The skilled artists engaged are already engaged on the canvas which is to commemorate the condition to which the country was reduced when the National Policy was conceived. The closed factories, the deserted towns and cities, the vacant houses, the lifeless past and the hopeless future prospects of Canada are to be again paraded and the electors are to be asked whether it would not be better to return to these "the fleshpots of Egypt" rather than continue to combat with the keen competition which now prevails in all branches of our home industries. "Down with taxation" is the cry of the pessimists; "Down with protection" is the watchword of the enemies of Canada's progress; "Away with the National Policy," which has done so much for the artisan, the operative and the sons of toil generally, is the frenzied yell of the disappointed politician, who sees in Canada's progress the death-knell of his political aspirations. The idea of again putting the National Policy on trial, after so many trials have been had, is no doubt the dying effort of those who felt chagrined at Canada's progress. Look at the numerous factories which have sprung up in all directions; count the tens of thousands of contented workmen and workwomen who earn their daily bread through these agencies, and then ask where would these have been had the National Policy been a failure? Where would they have been? Aye, that's the question! In other lands, where that starvation, which would have awaited them here, would have been avoided. The National Policy has built up the manufactures of the country. These have attracted the tens of thousands employed in them. These tens of thousands keep in the country the wages they earn and give employment to thousands of others whose services would not be required. The Dominion of Canada has within its borders an immensely increased capital which would have been diverted to other countries, but which through this influence is proving its reproductive power here. Where would

this capital be to-day were it not for the National Policy! What would our vast armies of workingmen and women, even if they were in the country do, if there was no work to supply them with the bread to live? If the National Policy does all this, and that it does it and much more the progress of the country proves, it would be folly to kill the goose that lays the golden egg, but the race of fools and greedy folks is not dead yet. So long as these exist they will air their views. To this we do not object, but we do object to their being aired before the people of Canada as a whole who regard them as simple rubbish. The National Policy has been on its trial since its inception. It is on its trial now and it will continue to be on its trial despite the vaporings of the maddened crowd of disappointed power-grabbers whose emaciated forms are starving for that delicious food with which the Government crib is full to overflowing. This food for which their souls crave is barred from their reach, by the National Policy, and to keep them from death, death by starvation, that Policy with all its blessings must go. But what say the electors? No! no! a universal No!

TRADE WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

THE grand system of railway communication which the last few years has developed throughout Canada, by which her inland productions are brought to home markets, and the seaboard for transportation to other countries, has contributed more to the progress of the country than any other agency. Under the fostering influence of the National Policy the industrial productions of the country have received an encouragement and an impetus which has given them an importance which they could not have otherwise obtained. Not only is the means of transport furnished for our cereal productions, but the same means affords transportation for the manufactures which have increased their producing powers beyond the consumptive demands of the country. Easy means of transport for both cereal and industrial productions are thus furnished to the seaboard and the desirability of reaching the best markets now presents itself for discussion. Canada's export trade has increased exceedingly, our foreign commerce is now in excess of that of our neighbors if we take population as the basis of comparison. To afford facilities for the extension of this foreign trade should now be, and no doubt is, the policy of the Dominion Government, taking the mission of the Hon. Mr. ABBOTT as an index of that policy. There are many outlets for the enterprise of the Canadian people and it is the duty of the Government of this country to leave nothing undone calculated to develop to the fullest extent our resources and to strengthen our industries in order that our trade may be extended to the utmost with other countries. We have already pointed out that Canada can supply South America with certain articles for

which a demand exists; that a profitable business is feasible for the products and manufactures of this country with the West Indies, and all that now remains to be done is for the Government to multiply facilities for extending that trade in every possible direction. This is to be done by encouraging and providing facilities of transit which will open up these markets to Canada's surplus productions. To do so on a scale commensurate with its important results in Canada's progress is the only means worth adopting if success is to be achieved. We trust that the next session of the Dominion Parliament will inaugurate a system worthy of the greatness of the country and the importance of its interests. We hope to see such a measure introduced as will convince the opposition pessimists that the National Policy is vastly more beneficial and important than they have yet conceived, for "they have eyes to see but they see not."

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.

RUMOR hath it that the provisions of the Act passed by the Dominion Parliament in 1887, respecting the Department of Trade and Commerce, are about to be enforced, and that the offices of Minister of Customs and Minister of Inland Revenue will be abolished. The Act has now been on the statute book for more than two years, and it seems strange that its provisions should remain so long in abeyance. Mr. BOWELL, the Minister of Customs, will, it is stated, receive the collectorship at Toronto, and this will dispose of him for life probably. What use he has been to the Government we fail to see. The appointment of an active, energetic, competent man to the position of Minister of Trade and Commerce should not, we think, be longer deferred. In his department all matters of Customs and Inland will be attended to by two new officers called Controller of Customs and Controller of Inland Revenue, with salaries of five thousand dollars a year, and eligible to seats in the House of Commons. The opening of a new parliamentary year would have been a good opportunity for inaugurating the change referred to, but this has been postponed, rumor says, on account of the visit to Australia to be made by the Hon. Mr. ABBOTT, to whom all fingers point as the best qualified man in the present Parliament. He could retain his present leadership of the Senate, if the Controllers of Customs and Inland Revenue were members of the House of Commons, as they should be able to answer any questions in that House bearing on the working of their respective sections. We approved of the Act at the time of its introduction, and we had hoped to see its provisions in force before this. If a general election is at hand, the changes contemplated by the Act are very probably under consideration and will soon be promulgated.