

our most valuable industries, and antagonizing an element that has always been its firm and staunch supporter. The effect of the Order in Council is to force the Canadian manufacturers of iron and iron products, paints, varnishes, and all other materials entering into the construction of agricultural implements, to reduce the price of their goods to the American level, and to sacrifice every vestige of benefit supposed to accrue to them by the imposition of duty upon such things when imported.

If the Massey-Harris Company imported all these materials the Government would give them a drawback of ninety-nine per cent. of the duty paid them. If our home manufacturers supply these materials it must be at no higher prices than the imported materials, but they obtain no drawback because their products are not exported by them, and so it is that these various industries are being ruined.

If the Massey-Harris Company and other manufacturers must be encouraged in engaging in the export business, it should not be at the expense of other industries. It would be far better for the Government to pay a bounty of \$2.87 each upon all exported harvesters than to kill off a dozen other industries by the pernicious effects of the unfortunate Order in Council.

A MACEDONIAN CRY.

A few days ago the Toronto World, conscious of the need of new blood and more strength in the Conservative party, made a loud call for Hon. W. R. Meredith to step down from the Bench to which he had been recently elevated, and accept a position in the Dominion Cabinet, to which we do not understand he has yet been invited. Mr. Meredith when leader of the Conservative Opposition in the Ontario Legislature displayed remarkable ability as a statesman, and was always accounted clean, pure and upright, yet the long years he gave to his party never won over for it sufficient of the confidence of the electors to displace Mr. Mowat and place the reins of power in his hands. The reason of this was that, there being no national issues to be determined by the Ontario Government and Legislature, and the people having every confidence in the leadership of Mr. Mowat, and satisfied with his management of provincial affairs, declined to remove him to give place to even so trustworthy a man as Mr. Meredith. Mr. Meredith seemingly being satisfied that he could not change the current of opinion as regarded provincial politics, abandoned the effort and accepted a high judicial position. The World, voices, we are sure, the sentiments of the whole country in the following allusion to Mr. Meredith:

The World receives with satisfaction a suggestion that Hon. William Ralph Meredith, chief justice of common pleas for Ontario, should step down from the bench to enter the federal ministry. There are few abler men in Canada than Mr. Meredith. There is certainly no man in public life to-day with a cleaner or more honorable record. Honorable and eloquent, there is possibly nobody in Ontario to-day better calculated to lead the Conservative hosts to victory, and to rally the young men of the province under his banner, than the judge. For years in the local legislature he led the opposition members with marked ability, and now that a request again comes to him to enter the federal arena, the World trusts that Mr. Meredith will not be unresponsive to the call.

The Hamilton Spectator commenting upon this call to Mr. Meredith thinks that it is rather cheeky of the Conservative

party in Ontario to ask the judge to come to its rescue now. It says:

Is it not rather too much for Ontario Conservatives, who failed to do their duty to Mr. Meredith when last he asked for their help—and at a time when their help would have put him into the premier's chair, to ask him now to sacrifice his comforts to their interests? Of course that does not apply to the bulk of the Conservatives in Ontario; the great majority of them stuck to Mr. Meredith loyally. But the moderate Conservatives gave him the cold shoulder, and it is these moderate Conservatives who now find themselves in such a position that they find it necessary to call on the rejected Meredith for help.

It is passing strange that neither the World, the Spectator, or any other of the Conservative journals comprehend the situation. For many years Mr. Meredith represented a strong Conservative constituency in the Ontario Legislature, which would have been open to him for as long a time as he might have been pleased to represent it, and yet he, the ablest man in his party, could never muster more than a corporal's guard at his back in any effort he ever made to supplant Mr. Mowat. On the other hand, in Dominion politics, the Ottawa Government can always depend upon Ontario rolling up Conservative majorities, and returning Conservative members.

The explanation of this condition is obvious. There is a large and influential element in Ontario that unflinchingly supports the Dominion Government simply because the Dominion Government maintains the National Policy; but this element has no quarrel with Mr. Mowat, declines to antagonize him, and will vote to retain him as Premier of Ontario as long as he desires the honor. Who the Spectator alludes to by "moderate Conservatives" we do not know. Mr. Meredith in his last days in the Legislature was as strong as ever he was, therefore there could have been no giving the cold shoulder to him; and it is not likely that it is those who did not vote and work for him then that are demanding his return to political life as a Dominion Minister. The manufacturers of Ontario and their friends compose the element that keeps Mr. Mowat in power as Premier of the province, and also that holds the balance of power in Dominion elections and casts it in favor of National Policy candidates.

If from any cause the Dominion Government find themselves in need of new blood—if they find themselves weak—they should remember that the votes and influence of the manufacturers counted strongly in placing them in power. If they keep their promises looking to the maintenance of the National Policy, carrying them out in good faith, they may feel assured of the support of the manufacturers in keeping them in power. The National Policy is the shibboleth of the manufacturers.

MONOPOLISTIC INDUSTRIES.

The London Advertiser announces that the senior member of the firm of Frost & Wood, of Smith's Falls, Ont., is a Liberal candidate for the House of Commons, and "a repudiator of the high tax system as a help to legitimate manufacturing industries."

It tells us that Frost & Wood are, next to the Massey-Harris Company, the largest manufacturers of agricultural implements in the Dominion, and that Mr. Frost, knowing what he is talking about, asserts that "outside monopolistic industries that profit unfairly at the expense of the people, the