

that Mr. Clarkson should have been admitted a member of the Association, stranger that he should have been placed upon the executive committee, and, strangest of all, that the committee should have lent itself to his effort to cripple a valuable Canadian industry, a number of the personnel of which are members of the Association and have been for many years. It is remarkably strange that the committee should have entertained Mr. Clarkson's motion; should have published it in full and broad-cast it throughout the land, and have proceeded to discuss and act upon it without first having given proper notice to the members whose interests were in such peril. In view of Mr. Clarkson's disqualifications, the committee went far astray in giving any entertainment whatever to his proposition, went astray in publishing it in *Industrial Canada*, and blundered in the final action thereon. In the eyes of the Old Guard it was a stranger sight to behold a representative of a foreign concern who manufacture their goods in a foreign land, and whose only interest in Canada is to sell them, asking the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to lend its influence to break down and destroy a valuable Canadian industry to the end that the foreign competitor might prosper more vigorously; and stranger still to see the earnestness and complaisance with which the foreigner's views were carried out. It is true that Mr. Clarkson's resolutions were not adopted, but the substitute resolution was not much better. All the publicity possible was given, through *Industrial Canada*, to his charges, and he has cause to congratulate himself upon the result of his efforts.

THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

At a recent meeting of the board of directors of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition Association, Mr. George Booth brought up the question of awarding prizes to manufacturers for their exhibits of machinery, Mr. Booth's idea being that if prizes were given there would be an increase in the number of exhibits.

Mr. Booth, as a manufacturer, a representative of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and one of the oldest directors on the board, should remember that this question was thoroughly discussed years ago, in which about all the exhibiting manufacturers took part, the conclusion arrived at being against the awarding of prizes. At that time and for a number of years thereafter much more enthusiasm was exhibited by the manufacturers in displaying their products than has been apparent of late years, and therefore we fail to see why the awarding of prizes now would be an inducement to manufacturers to exhibit who might be otherwise inclined. The falling off in the number of exhibits for a few years past has been so noticeable that in many lines an exhibitor would have no competition—that is to say, there has been but one article of a kind; and should Mr. Booth's idea be adopted, the prize for such an article would have to be awarded, not because of successful competition, but rather for lack of competition. Under present conditions the idea is unworkable and impracticable.

As we have heretofore pointed out, the very nice, respectable gentlemen who have the management of the affairs of the Industrial are not up-to-date in such business, and do not know how to handle it. They did well enough, perhaps, in days gone by, but they do not comprehend that method that prevailed ten, fifteen and twenty years ago are now obsolete, and that what is needed now is active, energetic men who, for the sake of the success of the exhibition are willing to take off their coats, roll up their sleeves and work, each in some

particular sphere, and thus give to Manager Hill the active assistance he does not get but should have. Time was when it was a great and glorious privilege to be a director, wear a big and beautiful badge, march in imposing procession to free dinners, occupy a prominent seat upon the grand stand, and have the unrestricted entre to the side shows, but such things are not now considered essential to the success of the Fair, the requirement being, as Kipling says, work, work, work. It should call forth strong efforts on the part of these gentlemen to be useful as well as ornamental.

Mr. Booth, instead of proposing an impractical thing, lost a fine opportunity to advise his board that an absolute qualification for a director should be that he should not only be an exhibitor, but, if a manufacturer, his exhibit should consist of a process of his business or machinery in motion. Mr. Booth wants other manufacturers to exhibit their machinery or products, and is willing that prizes should be awarded for so doing, but our impression is that not one of the directors, manufacturers as many of them are, ever make such exhibits. A few years ago an enterprising manufacturer at considerable expense to himself took a loom from his factory and began to operate it in a building at the Fair. It was indeed a most interesting exhibit in which the process of the manufacture of carpet was shown, but unfortunately it interfered with the sale of pop corn at a neighboring stand for which the proprietor had paid, and the carpet-making nuisance had to be abated. It drew too big a crowd.

The directors are discussing the erection of some new buildings on the Fair grounds, but those do not include one specially adapted for, and appropriated to exhibits of processes of manufacture. Why do not the directors erect a building for that particular purpose, and utilize it themselves by making exhibits in the production of which they are experts. Why don't they set an example for others to follow. They should either do so or resign.

CANADIAN IMPORTS OF LEATHER BELTING.

The following statements show the value of leather belting imported into Canada from Great Britain and the United States respectively in the years named. These imports are divided into two periods—Table 1, including three years previous to the inauguration of the preferential tariff in favor of British merchandise, Table 2, including a similar term of three years under the preference.

	G. B.	U. S.
1894	\$8,150	\$6,144
1895	9,846	15,623
1896	8,383	26,519
Total	\$26,379	\$48,286
Proportion	35.4 p. ct.	64.6 p. ct.

	G. B.	U. S.
1898	\$11,331	\$30,931
1899	17,697	24,078
1900	38,690	33,474
Total	\$67,718	\$88,483
Proportion	43.3 p. ct.	56.7 p. ct.

In 1897 the imports were:

	G. B.	U. S.	Total.
1897	\$10,577	\$28,567	\$39,144
Proportion	26.5 p. ct.	73.5 p. ct.	100.0 p. ct.

The general duty on leather belting in the years under consideration was twenty per cent. ad valorem, which was