

concentration of energy enables the manufacturers to exercise an influence upon the Government out of all proportion to their real importance in the country.

Let there be an Importers' Association. There is a vast number of wealthy, powerful and intelligent men who have added to the wealth of this country by bringing into our markets articles produced in other countries which they have supplied to our people on reasonable enough terms. Let some of the strongest of these men take the lead, and set on foot an organisation to which every importer may become a subscriber, and let them take the necessary measures for directing and concentrating their political and social interests as effectually as is done by the manufacturers. No political leaders and no Government can properly be blamed if they make their account with those who take effective means to obtain the acceptance of their views by the general mass of electors. But if the other interests of the country could become as well organised and as effectually handled, they would dominate the policy of any Government holding office.

It is of course very true that many men who have grown rich out of the importing trade have invested some part of their means in manufacturing enterprises, and many of the best of them have taken seats on the boards of the large corporations formed for manufacturing purposes. I would appeal to these, however, to seriously examine the question in its broadest features and not allow the investment of a few thousands in some unstable manufacturing enterprise to becloud their intelligence in considering the general interests of trade and commerce of the country, as well as that of the consuming public.

The manufacturers are entitled to absolute justice and to reasonable consideration, but they should not be allowed to impose their views upon the general public and to demand the sacrifice of the other great interests of the country for their benefit.

The transportation companies also in a measure have their hands tied by the custom they receive from the manufacturers when these act as a unit, and when their better customers act altogether without organic effort. The railway companies very properly refuse to meddle in politics, but while this properly applies to the boards of directors, it should not prevent the employees from