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#### THE CLAY WORKING INDUSTRY.

No industry is more intimately connected with the growth and prosperity of a country than the clay working industry.

It is the basic industry in the building operations which are making the cities and towns of Canada so attractive to the visitor and so comfortable for the resident. On this industry the farmer depends for the brick which makes his home warm and comfortable through the rigorous winter of a northern cline and for the tile which makes possible modern methods of drainage in his fields.

With all due respect to the many varieties of Canadian wood and to the undoubted value of cement in many building operations the demand for brick and the variety of purposes to which it can be put is steadily expanding. Consequently the importance of this industry to the community is being more and more recognized.

For several years those engaged in this industry have sought the establishment of a "Clay Working School," to give technical education covering this important industry in the same way as is now done by similar schools in Great Britain, Germany and the United States, and as the "School of Mines," at Kingston, Ont., is now doing for the mining industry in Canada.

Here is a serious need. The Ontario government promised a year ago to fully consider the proposition. It is to be hoped the clay-workers of Canada, and particularly those of Ontario, will give the weight of their influence to make this demand so emphatic that action will be taken at once.

## MR. JOHN F. ELLIS, THE HISTORIAN.

At the last convention of the Canadian Manufacturers<sup>3</sup> Association held in Toronto in September last, Mr. John F. Ellis, addressing the convention said :--

" Mr. President and gentlemen :- About eight years ago the membership of this Association did not amount to as many hundreds as it does now thousands. At that time, it was seriously considered by many of the members "Had we not better close up the Canadian Manu-facturers' Association?" They questioned its value. A few thought differently; they thought that the Association had a mission, and that if it was properly managed that mission would work out for the benefit of the manufacturers of the Dominion. In their meetings the first question they considered, and the one which they thought the most important was the appointment of a secretary. This Association has been singularly fortunate in the choice of its secretaries during the last eight years, and without reflection on the rest of the exectuive, even from the president downwards, I consider that the secretaries that we have had for the last eight years are the cause of the brilliant success of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association."

Mr. Ellis was president of the Association at the time he questioned its value; and because of his misapprehension of his duties as president, and his peculiar views of the duties of the secretary, there was a lack of that harmony that had always from the organization of the Association and until that time, characterized it as an organization.

At the same general annual meeting at which Mr. W. K. McNaught was elected president of the Association, Mr. J. J. Cassidey was also elected secretary, after having served as assistant secretary under Mr. Frederic Nicholls from 1887. Mr. Cassidey was the editor of the CANADIAN MANUFACTURER, which had several years before been declared by the Association as its official organ; and Mr. Cassidey and the CANADIAN MANUFACTURER were continued as indicated until the time to which Mr. Ellis alludes.

During the time of the incumbency of Mr. McNaught as president of the Association, to test the question as to whether, in his dual capacity, the secretary and editor was working to the best advantage in the interests of the Association and the manufacturers generally, an expression of opinion regarding it was requested of some of the prominent members, in reply to which among many others he was in receipt of the following from Mr. Mc-Naught, then the president:

"It affords me no small pleasure to bear testimony to the ability and fair-mindedness which has characterized your editorial management of the CANADIAN MANU-FACTURER. Your articles not only bristle with facts, but are sound and to the point; and in my opinion it would be a good thing for the country if they could be read by every voter as well as every manufacturer in the Dominion. In regard to your services as secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, I consider that you have performed your duties faithfully and with marked ability; and from an intimate personal knowledge of what has been done and is being done, I am of the opinion that the Association has been singularly fortunate in securing your services."

Mr. McNaught, almost or quite from the inception of