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CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE fourteenth annual meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association will be held at their offices, 6 Wellington Street, West, this city, on Thursday, March 7, instant, commencing at the hour of 2.30 p. m. The proceedings will be of the usual routine character, such as the presentation of reports, election of officers, and a discussion of matters of general interest. In the evening the members and invited guests will enjoy their customary dinner at the Queen's Hotel.

THE WOOLEN MANUFACTURERS.

Recently a deputation of woolen goods manufacturers waited upon the Minister of Customs, at Ottawa, to urge an increase in the duty on imported woolen goods, whereupon and immediately a deputation of importers and jobbers of such goods waited upon the Minister to protest against any increase in the duty being made. The manufacturers represented that the shoddy cloth now imported is made so much lighter than was formerly the case that it is possible to undersell the home product, the duty remaining as it is. The importers favor the existing situation, and view with pleasure the fact that while the importations of foreign woolens are abnormally large, the woolen manufacturing industry in Canada is in a wretchedly depressed and distressed condition. The Government seem to be more inclined to please the importers by abstaining from raising the duty than to assist the manufacturers, some of whom think that it will be only a matter of time when their mills will be forced to shut down and the employes thrown out of work.

There seems to exist some misunderstanding between the manufacturers and importers and jobbers which, if not satis-

factorily arranged, will bring about a state of affairs that might be regretted later on. It is well known that the manufacturers labor under very great disadvantages in conducting their business, and the tariff matter is perhaps not the greatest. Under the most favorable circumstances, with the tariff standing as it now does, they are seriously handicapped by the greater cheapness of money and the very low price of labor to foreign manufacturers; but even this might be successfully battled against if a more favorable condition prevailed at home regarding the marketing of their products. As a rule the same men, or class of men, who import foreign woolens also handle the products of Canadian mills. The foreign goods are usually bought on short time, while by the prevailing unwise system of dating ahead the Canadian manufacturer rarely ever sees a dollar of the proceeds of the sale of his goods until a year or more after they have been shipped from his mill. It may be that this method of doing business is the result of too great anxiety to sell goods; but whatever the cause, it is certain that the jobbers who handle them, work the method unsparingly and unremittently to their own advantage, seemingly indifferent of the welfare of the manufacturers.

Of course this condition cannot last forever, nor should it: and in view of the fact that no relief seems probable through favorable legislation at the present session of Parliament, the manufacturers must adopt some scheme by which they may be saved from annihilation between the upper millstone of foreign competition, and the nether of adverse business methods and the hostility of importers. It is whispered, very gently of course, and *sub rosa*, that some action is in contemplation looking in this direction; the idea being for the manufacturers, avoiding the jobbers, to go directly to the trade and sell their goods. It is argued that this would effect several much to be desired things. It would save the profit that now goes to the jobber; it would bring the products of Canadian mills more prominently to the attention of Canadian buyers and consumers; it would "shake" the side-by-side competition with foreign goods, which are generally of inferior quality, and the suppression and keeping in the background of home-made goods when both sorts are held by the same jobber; it would release the manufacturer from thralldom to those who would rather see him sink than swim, and it would give him his money for his goods on just as short time as to the jobber when the sale is effected through him. It would be a new phase in Canadian mercantile life to see drummers from Canadian mills swarming all over Canada selling direct to dealers and without the intervention of the jobbers.

BUSCOMBE VS. TRADES UNION.

READERS of this journal have been kept posted regarding the outrageous tyranny practised by the Bricklayers' and Masons' Union, of Hamilton, against Buscombe, a non-union bricklayer of that city. The matter culminated last April when Buscombe caused the arrest of David R. Gibson, William Mitchell and William Littlejohn, members of the union, on a charge of conspiracy. The Grand Jury of the Hamilton court found a true bill against these men, and on their trial they were convicted of the offence and sentenced to terms of imprisonment as punishment therefor. The case was appealed to the Court of Queen's Bench, and a final hearing thereon was had