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FREDERIC NICHOLLS,
Managing Director

J. J. CASSIDEY,
Editor

J. C. GARDNER,
Business Representative.

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THE TARIFF.

AFTER one of the longest sessions ever held by the Dominion Parliament, adjournment was had on last Saturday.

It was a repetition of the fable of the mountain being in labor and bringing forth a mouse.

Aside from necessary legislation, which might have been accomplished in a week or so, it would have been well for the country if Parliament had not been convened.

Important business which should have been transacted was left undone, and much that was done might have been left undone without any detriment to the welfare of Canada.

Ever since the adoption of the present tariff it has been evident that there were incongruities in it which needed correction. The tariff, like other human institutions, is not perfect, and it is evidently the duty of the Government to correct its weaknesses and to strengthen it where strength is necessary. The Government now in power were put there by the friends of the tariff. They were not only favorable to the National Policy, but were also the friends of those who demanded and upheld that policy. That is to say, they professed to be and were accepted as such friends, otherwise it would have been impossible for them ever to have been chosen as members of the Canadian Parliament and to have been entrusted with the reins of government.

Canadian manufacturers had much to do with placing the present Government in power. They did not lend their efforts to do this as adherents of the Conservative party, but as upholders and supporters of the National Policy. This policy afforded a platform upon which they could all stand, and in the support of which they could all work, and for which they did work. If the manufacturers had not advocated this policy, and had not worked for it, it would not have been accepted as the policy of the Government, and if it had not been thus accepted the administrators of the Government who are in authority to day would now be reposing in the cold shades of political oblivion in their respective homes or somewhere else.

It is therefore obviously due to the manufacturers that when they approach the Government and point out incongruities in the tariff—point out that these incongruities are working injury to them—that they are defeating the very object for which the National Policy was created—their views should receive the consideration they deserve and they should be acted upon.

Trusting that men whom they had assisted so largely in placing in power were their friends, and that they would be glad to forward their interests the manufacturers have time and again gone to Ottawa and respectfully asked that their petitions might be considered. It is due to the Government to say that they have always been courteous in their intercourse with those who have approached them. They have listened to the arguments and representations presented to them, and they have uniformly promised that the matter under discussion should receive their careful consideration.

His gentlemanly treatment was all good enough in its way, but of what benefit has it been to the manufacturers that all the redress for their grievances which they could obtain at Ottawa consisted in gentlemanly treatment and a careful consideration of their business, which, while pleasant to contemplate and affording flattering anticipations of fulfilment, were like the beautiful apples of Sodom which turned to ashes and bitterness on the lips.

"Vanity of vanities," saith the preacher "all is vanity." Likewise vexation of spirit.

If the manufacturers had asked for unreasonable things—if they had asked for a general revision of the tariff, looking to an increase of duties all along the line—if they had singled out even a few articles upon which duties are laid and asked that these duties be increased—if they had asked that certain lines of products be changed from the free list and placed in the dutiable schedules—answer might have been made that circumstances did not favor such changes, and that it was not in the opinion of the Government, desirable to make them.

But they made no such sweeping demands and the resolution introduced by the Minister of Finance in the expiring hours of the session proves this.

The changes introduced by the Minister affecting glove leather, oleostearine and nitrate of soda represent the character of what the manufacturers had requested of the Government.

Regarding glove leather, it is a fact that nearly all the leather used in the manufacture of gloves is made from the skin of the lamb, but is known in commercial circles as kid skin. The tariff, in enumerating glove leathers, mentions