



ESTABLISHED IN 1880.

PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAYS OF EACH MONTH

Official Organ of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS:

CANADA AND UNITED STATES, - - - \$1.00 PER YEAR.  
 ALL OTHER COUNTRIES IN POSTAL UNION, EIGHT SHILLINGS  
 STERLING PER YEAR, INCLUDING POSTAGE.

## The Canadian Manufacturer Publishing Co., Limited.

McKinnon Building, Cor. Melinda and Jordan Sts., Toronto.

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## THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

The Dominion Parliament was opened in due form this week, and a disposition seems to prevail on both sides of the House of Commons to expedite such business as may come before it. Never since Confederation was so little time given between the issuing of the proclamation calling both houses of the Dominion Legislature and the opening. The usual custom was to give about thirty days' time for the members to get ready to come to Ottawa to attend to their legislative duties. Not much more than half this time was given this year. The reason for this was that Parliament had to be called at this time or not until April 6th, as the Easter holidays came between the 23rd and the 6th, and it is customary to adjourn over Good Friday.

The Government programme for the session is not likely to be a very long one, although there will be a number of important measures introduced. An effort will once more be made to put through an insolvency bill. This will occupy considerable time in both houses.

It is also probable that a copyright bill will be introduced into this question. Canada is still working under its 1875 act, as the Imperial Government refused to sanction legislation of a few years ago in respect to this intricate question.

The applications for public and private bills are greater this session than has been the case for several years past. Altogether there are ninety-three applications. Of these, thirty-eight are for the incorporation of companies, forty-six are for amendments and acts already passed, six are for bills of divorce one is a winding-up act and two are for the extension of letters patent. There are 'we' e applications for railway charters and the incorpor. companies in connection with the Yukon.

The Government will meet Parliament with its voting strength increased. During the recess the Liberals captured Bagot, a strong Conservative constituency in the Province of Quebec. For the first time since Confederation, Bagot will be represented this session by a Conservative. Since the last general election there have been thirty-five bye-elections. Of these the Government carried thirty-three and the Opposition two. Two constituencies will be vacant when the House meets. Both were represented by Government candidates last session. Winnipeg, which becomes vacant by the death of R. W. Jameson, and Levis, by the death of Dr. Guay, cannot be represented at the opening, as the time is too short to hold elections there before that date. The writs, however, will be issued at once, and before the Easter holidays are over both ridings will be represented in Parliament.

No doubt Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the other Commissioners to the International Convention are very much disappointed that a treaty was not negotiated, the general opinion is that they have done the right thing, but they have not yet lost hope of an agreement, and it is evident that the American commissioners share this view or they would not have consented to an adjournment to meet in Quebec on August 2nd next. As matters now stand it will be impossible to discuss the question in Parliament with any degree of satisfaction because no report can be given by the Government, but it will be impossible to prevent members referring to the negotiations in debating the address in reply to the speech from the throne, as reference will no doubt be made in the speech to the commission.

The Government have had an excellent opportunity to learn the temper of the country regarding reciprocity, and it is to be hoped that that question will be laid away, not to be again resurrected for many long years.

## PROTECTION WOULD BRING THE INDUSTRIES.

Our esteemed contemporary, The Mail and Empire, prints an editorial as follows:—

A Scottish firm, one of the largest textile manufacturing concerns in the world, is about to build on the American side of the Niagara a branch factory to be run with electric power supplied from the Falls.

If the power on our side of the river had not been tied up by the unwise and unpatriotic deal of the Ontario Government, we should doubtless now have been in a position to compete for these great works, and would likely have got the preference.

Some time ago we had to forego the chance of getting a big establishment for manufacturing seamless tubes, because we were unable to furnish power on our bank.

The only obstruction to the development of the Canadian side of the Falls into a great industrial centre is the Ontario Government.

From which it is to be inferred that if the power of Niagara Falls had been developed on the Canadian side the two industrial concerns alluded to would have located in Canada. But The Mail and Empire should know that the Scottish textile manufacturing concern did not cross the ocean to make goods for consumption in Canada, but in the United States, and that it could not manufacture goods to any better advantage in Canada than in Scotland for consumption in the United States. Being desirous of manufacturing for the American market, and to avoid the payment of high duties, the company very logically concluded to build a factory in the