

THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER

DEVOTED TO HOME INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE, FINANCE, INSURANCE, RAILWAYS & MINING. AND INDUSTRIAL WORLD.

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OUR SECOND VOLUME.

With this number commences the second volume of the CANADIAN MANUFACTURER. Just a year ago the experiment was begun with the first number issued in Toronto. The interval has sufficed to give assurance that the experiment has succeeded, and that the CANADIAN MANUFACTURER has come to stay. For the liberality of our friends and patrons, and for their appreciation of our efforts, we tender them our hearty thanks, while hoping that upon our shortcomings they will look with a lenient eye. Circumstances incident to the establishing and settling down of a new enterprise have prevented that uniformity and completeness in all respects which we have desired to attain, and which we hope yet to reach. But these unavoidable hindrances are being met and overcome at a fair rate of progress, and we are sanguine enough to believe that already they are pretty well disposed of.

The existence of such a journal is a permanent requirement in Canada; and it will always be the more necessary the more that manufactures grow and spread in the country. As the manufacturing interests become more diversified and expanded, the task of efficiently representing them in the press is constantly becoming larger and more important than before. Progress and advancement in the manufacturing arts themselves, also changes in the course of trade and in the policy of nations, combine to change very materially, in a comparatively short time, the conditions under which business is carried on. In many lines the methods of ten years ago, in some the methods of only five years ago, would answer very poorly to-day; and we can certainly anticipate that the methods of to-day will be greatly changed in five or ten years hence. New inventions, and the opening up of new channels of business, are the great elements of changes in manufactures. To observe these changes and to turn the light on them as they come up is a special work, which requires special journalism as a main help towards the doing of it. The CANADIAN MANUFACTURER does not propose to be content with repeating merely what everybody already knows, but will be ever on the watch for the newest lessons, drawn from the most recent experience and discovery.

THE SEWING MACHINE TRADE AND THE N. P.

The following from the New York *Sewing Machine Journal* is of special interest just now.

"Those Canadian sewing machine manufacturers who fondly imagined that a high tariff secured to them at least the home market, reckoned without their host—the host in this case being the Singer Manufacturing Company. Any one who has watched the gigantic operations of the Singer Company will acknowledge that it is a 'whole host in itself' and equal to any emergency. The recent action of the Canadian customs authorities, which in effect greatly increased the duty on sewing machines, was an emergency, and the Singer Company meet it promptly and effectually by establishing a branch manufactory in Montreal. This is a 'tit' for the 'tat' of the Williams Company, of Montreal, who, to avoid the high tariff on sewing machines imposed by the United States government, have established a manufactory in Plattsburg, which is now turning out machines to meet the demands of their trade in this country. The Singer Company's action in this matter will deplete the Canadian treasury to the tune of between one and two hundred dollars a day—the amount now paid as duty on their machines imported into the Dominion. In this instance, protection does not protect the parties intended, as it gives a powerful and active rival to the present manufacturers; but the people of Canada will doubtless be benefited thereby."

If our American contemporary and the sewing machine companies over the border are pleased with the results of protection on this side, the Canadian public certainly will not object. It is to be understood that the Canadian duty on sewing machines has not been changed since the passing of the N. P. Act of 1879, in which it was placed at \$2 on each machine and 20 per cent. on the value. After three years' operation of this Act, it was found that American machines kept coming in notwithstanding, and to a pretty large amount. Meantime inquiries long and carefully prosecuted by the Customs Department at Ottawa had shown beyond a doubt that American exporters had two prices, one for home and the other for foreign markets. Without changing the duties as they stood on the statute book, an order was issued, directing that the true American market value be taken, instead of the fictitious value put by the company on machines sent over to their own agents here. The change began to tell immediately, and one result is that the Singer Company will establish a branch manufactory in Canada. A month or two ago it was reported that Toronto was the place chosen, but the *Journal*, we see, names Montreal as the location of the new enterprise.

It is likely enough that Canadian sewing machine manufacturers will not be particularly well pleased to see so powerful a rival as the Singer Company planting itself down as their