

which it is so difficult to withstand, who desire Government sanction to take money unjustly out of the pockets of the people. He should mention some of the industries which he has discovered that thirteen years of protection of thirty or thirty-five per cent, had failed to infuse any life into. He should tell what industries he considers not appropriate to the country and which, therefore, should be allowed to die. He should tell why any industry which, under protection, had taken root and grown strong should be encouraged even more than it is now. He should explain his method of reasoning, in the light of his ante-election promises, why industries which do not show signs of healthy vitality should be incontinently choked and starved to death. An indignant and deceived constituency would be interested in an explanation if Mr. Cockburn could possibly find time to make it.

We challenge Mr. Cockburn's definition of the idea of the National Policy. We deny that the founders and advocates of it ever promised for it that after a few years of it our manufacturers would be able to sell their products at as low prices as similar articles could be obtained for abroad. That idea is excessively ridiculous and could only have originated in Mr. Cockburn's brain some time after the dishes had been removed from the banquet table. He well knows that, according to the ethics of protection, the height of the duty should represent in the protected country only the greater cost of labor and materials there over that in competing countries; and he knows that that is chiefly what the manufacturers ask for.

It is this sort of demagoguism that is fast sinking into contempt many of the so-called adherents to the National Policy in the House of Commons. The hope is entertained by many that, under the premiership of Sir John Thompson, less political shuffling will be done and more attention paid to the requirements of the country. It is to be sincerely hoped that Mr. Cockburn is not an exponent of the views of the Government. We do not believe he is. We also hope that the report is incorrect which states that both Mr. Denison and Mr. Coatsworth listened to Mr. Cockburn's speech "in dead silence." Brave and courageous men do not remain in dead silence when they hear slanders uttered against their friends.

AS TO AN IRON INDUSTRY.

THE *Toronto World*, in discussing the recent meeting of citizens interested in the manufacturing welfare of Toronto, said that that meeting established two points of the utmost importance, namely, that citizens of influence, adherents of both political parties, have great confidence in the future of Toronto as a manufacturing centre; and that men of scientific knowledge and of large practical experience in the use of iron believe in the feasibility of making Toronto alive with iron activities. The ground being thus clear of political obstacles, and the assurance of success being so confirmed, the next step was, it said, to acquire and to make public such practical information as is needed to justify capitalists in embarking in this enterprise. It urged the appointment of a Commission by the Ontario Government specially charged with the duty of making enquiries in regard to the mining, smelting and manipulation of iron, and that a deputation should wait upon the Ontario Ministers to urge this course. It specified the items

upon which positive, expert, reliable information was needed, such as the laying down of iron ore in this city, the cost of fuel and flux, the most desirable kind of furnace, its cost of construction, the cost of labor, of management, of distribution, and the extent of the probable market in which iron thus produced would be sold. It also declared that suppositions and general statements were of no value, that the information must be specific, and that when such information was obtained and published capitalists would be able to decide if any legislation was needed, and what necessary to remove difficulties in the way of embarking in the enterprise. The Commission to obtain this information, which should consist of well qualified experts, should, it says, visit the American centres of iron mining and making, also the iron districts of Great Britain, to learn the conditions under which the industry is there conducted; and if the local public are too supine to furnish funds for this work an appeal should be made to the Governments of Ontario and the Dominion for help, as the question at issue is of vital importance to the whole country.

The *World* maps out an extensive and expensive programme for the discovery of information which we either already have, or which is not at all necessary in solving this question. Without any further expert testimony we know that Ontario abounds in iron ore and fluxes well adapted for the manufacture of iron; we can tell to a dime what the cost of them per ton would be laid down at Toronto or any other point; that we have no supplies of coal in Ontario which could be used as fuel, and that if coke is used our dependence would necessarily be upon American ovens. We need no expert testimony on these most important points, for we are familiar with them already. We know that coke iron and steel can be manufactured as cheaply in Toronto as in Buffalo or Chicago, and we also know that charcoal iron of the best quality can be made here as cheaply as in Michigan. With all this important information already at hand; and being able to tell by reference to the Blue Books of the Dominion what our requirements of imported iron and steel and manufactures thereof actually are, it really does not require the services of experts to tell us approximately the extent of the home market we might enjoy if we possessed an iron and steel industry. The question, then, does not require the services of experts. The *World* must be aware of the fact that there were gentlemen at the recent public meeting who had already very thoroughly investigated this question, and who had expressed a willingness to invest sufficient money in the establishment of an iron industry in Toronto if certain concessions could be had from the Ontario and Dominion Governments. The assurances required were that the Dominion Government should guarantee the payment of a bonus upon the production of pig iron for a sufficiently extended term of years; that the tariff duty on pig iron would not be lowered in that time, and if it was that the bonus should be correspondingly increased, and that the Ontario Government would also guarantee a bonus of equal amount and for the same period as the Dominion Government. The location upon which to erect the works proposed by these gentlemen was a secondary consideration; and if the matter had progressed to a point where the location must be decided upon, if it could not have been secured in Toronto it would have been had elsewhere.