

it be said that the great interest of agriculture is behind with its example. We have a Department of Agriculture for the Dominion, also Agricultural Associations for Provinces, for counties, and for townships. With other great interests thus working up in their respective spheres the principle of association, it would be strange if the manufacturers did not try the same thing. We may say that they have only in a manner begun to try what has long been in constant practice by other interests. After several former attempts, with ebbs and flows of activity, the manufacturers appear to be getting hold of a truth for which we have been contending—that their organization must be *perpetual*, and not a thing of fits and starts merely.

However, it is not so much the right of association as the expediency of it in the present case which the *Globe* calls in question. By leaguering together the manufacturers are isolating themselves from other interests, and so counting danger, we are told: nay, more, it is charged that this is being done by a small section of the manufacturers only—those among them who are "monopolists" in a special sense—and "moderate" men among them are warned to "keep away from the league." The word "league" is good, by the way; it almost suggests the idea of conspiracy or something akin to it. The sufficient answer to all this is that manufacturers may and should associate for the defence of their interests, even though their interests are substantially those of the community at large.

Is the *Globe* prepared to argue that *any* particular interest, organizing for its own defence or advancement, thereby of necessity places itself in antagonism to all other interests in the community? Or will our contemporary take up the contention that, while each and every other interest may put in practice the old teaching that "God helps them who help themselves," the manufacturing interest must be the only exception, doomed to enforced helplessness? For a proper community of interests, and in order that there may be fair play all round, it is surely a plain and simple requisite that each one be fairly represented both in and out of Parliament. And it so happens that the *Globe's* breathings of threatening and slaughter against the manufacturers do, in reality, constitute a very visible and pressing reason why organization on their part is specially necessary to avert the evil which is threatened. That a manufacturers' association should be driven to even the appearance of taking up a political or party attitude is to be regretted; and it is to be hoped, as we have before said, that the reasons which have to a certain extent compelled this will as soon as possible disappear. And if the *Globe* wishes to hasten that day, when the trade question shall have become a scientific rather than a political issue, it can best do so by ceasing to threaten the manufacturers with political vengeance.

### THE ONTARIO MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING—ELECTION OF OFFICERS—A VIGOROUS POLICY TO BE CARRIED OUT.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Manufacturers' Association was held at the Rossin House here on Thursday, Janu-

ary 12th. At the hour named—eleven o'clock—only a few members had arrived, but after waiting for some time quite a respectable number assembled, among those present being Messrs. E. Gurney, D. Lamb, Wallace Millichamp, J. J. Smith, R. W. Elliot, C. H. Hubbard, George Booth, A. W. Wright, John Maclean and C. A. Kelly, jr., of Toronto; J. S. Watson, Hamilton; R. McKechnie, Dundas; J. B. Armstrong, James Goldie and W. Wilkie, Guelph; James Newton, Lamehouse; Oliver Wilby, Weston, and J. McIntosh, Woodbridge.

On the opening of the meeting the President, Mr. Gurney, made his annual address. He urged the necessity of perfecting the organization, as, in view of the approaching election, it was necessary to put themselves in a position to efficiently protect their interests. He eulogised the National Policy, which he claimed had largely benefitted not only manufacturers but the general community as well.

After the presentation of the treasurer's report, Mr. A. W. Wright was asked to address the meeting. He did so, pointing out the necessity of perfecting the organization to the end that the policy of Protection should be placed in a position independent of the fate of parties. He suggested a plan of organization, which he thought would effect this.

The election of officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, with the following result:

President—R. McKechnie, Dundas,  
1st Vice-President—R. W. Elliot, Toronto.  
2nd Vice-President—Adam Warnock, Galt.  
Treasurer—George Booth, Toronto.  
General Secretary—A. W. Wright, Toronto.  
Honorary Secretary—C. A. Kelly, jr.

Executive Committee—Edward Gurney, Hamilton; Edward Gurney, jr., John Gillespie, W. F. Cowan, W. Millichamp, C. A. Kelly, jr., John Lamb, Toronto; J. Perley, Ottawa; S. S. Fuller, Stratford; Jas. Smart, Brockville; Hon. D. McInnes, Jas. Watson, Hamilton; Robert Barber, Streetsville; John Riordon, Merritton; W. Wilkie, Guelph.

Mr. Wm. Lukes, the Government Inspector of factories, then addressed the meeting by request, and asked the opinion of members on the question of the employment of women and children in factories, the compulsory protection of belting and shafting so as to avoid accident, etc.

Some discussion was held, but it seemed to be the general opinion that as the particular industries most likely to be affected by the law respecting the labour of women and children were not fully represented, it would not be advisable to give an expression of opinion on this matter. The proposal to compel the guarding against accident from belting and shafting met with general approval.

Some discussion arose in reference to a rumour that the Board of Dominion Appraisers was likely to be abolished, several members strongly deprecating the dissolution of a body which had proved so useful. The following resolution was moved and carried unanimously:

Moved by Messrs. Watson and Gurney, that this meeting, recognizing the valuable assistance the Dominion Board of Appraisers have been in the collection of customs revenue on an equitable basis in many departments of trade, would urge the Government to continue the system and to develop it by making appointments of men who thoroughly understand the nature of all the leading departments of trade.

It was decided that the General Secretary should personally visit the various manufacturing centres for the purpose of perfecting the organization and holding public meetings.

After votes of thanks to the retiring officers, moved by Messrs. R. W. Elliot and W. Millichamp, the meeting adjourned.