

038572

Evidence of Business Men in regard to Smuggling, etc.,
given before the Stevens' Committee

Colonel Robert Sterke, President, Montreal Board of Trade:

"The conditions referred to have seriously injured legitimate business and some of our members will appear before this Committee to state what they believe has been the effect of the smuggling on their business. The Council believes that the main cause of this smuggling has been gross incompetence and connivance on the part of certain Customs officials. The Council further believes that the prevention of the Chief Inspector from exercising his authority in Montreal has had very serious effects."

James M. MacDonnell, member of the Council of the Montreal B.O.T.,

"Now as a result of this situation in the House of Commons at the time certain legislation was passed, and I suppose hopes were held out that it might be effective, but we were grievously disappointed with the results, and so far as we can learn, it has resulted in nothing. I believe the legislation is not at fault; it is the administration. I believe there is force enough if the matter were righteously done, to enforce that legislation."

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