

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

THURSDAY, February 11, 1926.

The Special Committee appointed to investigate the administration of the Department of Customs and Excise and charges relating thereto, met at 10.30 A.M., the Chairman, Mr. P. Mercier, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: Now gentlemen of the Committee, before beginning to examine witnesses to-day, I wish to say that I have received a communication from the Merchants Protective Association of Montreal, dated February 10, addressed to the Chairman of this Committee, which reads as follows:

"Montreal, 10th February, 1926.

8 P.M.

PAUL MERCIER, Esq., M.P.
Chairman, Customs Investigation Committee,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. MERCIER,

Several of our members have called me up regarding a statement in to-night's issue of the Montreal Star, Page 1, to the effect that 'The Committee decided to hear next week, R. P. Sparks, of the Merchants' Protective Association.'

We have no 'R. P. Sparks' and at no time made an appeal on behalf of our members or any complaint about the Customs officials. So far as Montreal is concerned, the writer has always found the officials here honest, and straightforward in their dealings with the public.

Will you please therefore have deleted from the records our name as far as Sparks is concerned. Thank you.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) M. M. CAMPBELL, Mgr."

I will leave this letter on the table for the consideration of this Committee.

Hon. Mr. BENNETT: Is Mr. Sparks here? What is the proper name of your Association?

Mr. SPARKS: The Commercial Protective Association, incorporated by letters patent.

Hon. Mr. BENNETT: How do the minutes read, Mr. Clerk?

The CLERK: Commercial Protective Association.

Hon. Mr. BENNETT: Is that correct, Mr. Sparks, Commercial Protective Association?

Mr. SPARKS: Commercial.—

Hon. Mr. BENNETT: The "Star" will make the necessary change.