QUEBEC SUPPORTS TARIFF FOR ITS MANUFACTURES

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growth and prosperity, and it is stated that any difference in the fiscal policy would mean injury to the manufactures situated here.

The Board of Trade presented a resolution adopted at a recent meeting which voiced the same opinion, emphasizing the fact that a large number of United States concerns were situated here because of the existing tariff regulations, and stating that the continuance of adequate protection was considered to be in the best interests of the city.

In addition to these, a number of other briefs were presented by industrial and commercial establishments couched in similar terms.

Good Representation at Three Rivers

The evidence in Three Rivers was also strongly protectionist, though the farmers were also represented. The local Board of Trade, represented by Mr. Burrill, its president, registered in favor of a protective tariff as the best means to protect Canadian industries. Mr. Eugene Tremblay, in the name of the employees of the Wabasso Cotton Company, of Three Rivers, said that any reduction of the tariff would be prejudicial to the company, and, consequently, prejudicial to the employees. He favors the maintenance of the present tariff law.

The directors of the Shawinigan Cotton Company said that the textile industry had no actual protection on account of the depreciation of the pound sterling, and they ask for a more severe tariff. "Any interference with the present tariff would not only seriously jeopardize the success of the company, but would at once stop any further developments," said William G. Aird, manager. The company up to the present has not paid any dividends, Mr. Aird added. It has on its payroll about 450 employees, and is paying annually $500,000 in wages. The mill supplies coarse cotton yarns to the knitters throughout the country. According to the customs tariff there is a duty of 17½ per cent. as against Great Britain and 25 per cent. as against the United States. At the present time, owing to the depreciated value of the pound sterling, there is practically no protection as against the English manufacturer. The company is arranging for the doubling of its plant. When the latter is fully completed it will give employment to approximately 1,000 persons and will pay annually $1,000,000 in wages. Manager Aird submitted that no recommendation be made tending toward a reduction of the tariff in connection with this industry.

Maurice Garceau, a farmer residing in the neighborhood of Three Rivers, said that the Three Rivers industries, on account of the great number of men in their employ, afford the best market to the dairy trade, and any extension of the local industries made possible by a protective tariff would serve best the interests of the farmers' community. Consequently, he favors the maintenance of the present tariff.

Mr. Eugene Tremblay, one of the employees of the Wabasso Cotton Company, said that the employees of this company are mostly owners of their homes in this city, and that they are satisfied with what they have. He added that most of the employees of the Wabasso would be in a serious situation if the company was forced to close its doors on account of a reduction of tariff, because they were not competent to follow another trade. In the name of his co-workers he protested against any reduction of tariff that would jeopardize the interests of the Wabasso company and their own future.

Montreal's Shoe Manufacturing

T. H. Rieder, president of the Ames, Holden, McCready Co., Montreal, said that the profits made during the last three years "either have been or will be dissipated during the present year." Under examination he said that his company had made a profit of five per cent. on its turnover, and had paid eight per cent. on its preferred stock, which represented the invested stock. The common stock represented goodwill and no dividend had ever been paid on it. He did not give any figures as to the amounts put in reserve. He emphasized the contentions made by Mr. Palmer as to the inability of Canadians to compete on even terms with the United States manufacturers by describing the Endicott works in New York, which he had recently gone over. There was a separate factory devoted to each type of boot and shoe required, and in that way a volume and a saving in overhead costs could be attained which were impossible in the smaller factories of Canada.

In a long memorandum placed before the commission by Mr. Palmer for the whole trade it was stated that in 1918 there were in Canada 161 establishments manufacturing 14,087,268 pairs of leather boots and shoes, valued at $46,387,665, paying wages of $9,599,967 to the thousands of employees, and having a total capital investment of $33,274,753. He claimed that the industry, which had been in a languishing condition prior to 1905, revived when the tariff on fine shoes was raised from 25 to 30 per cent. in the 1906-07 revision. The progress had been steady, and to-day Canadian manufacturers were producing footwear equal to the best that could be imported, with the exception of certain ultra-fine luxury shoes. Domestic competition was keen, and along with tanners and other industries depending upon it for a market, 25,000 persons were employed. Every Canadian soldier in the late war wore Canadian-made boots.

In the Montreal district alone there were 53 factories producing 46 per cent. of all the leather footwear made in the Dominion. Ontario, with the same number of factories, made 31 per cent., and Quebec City and vicinity, with 32 factories, made 18 per cent., while 16 factories in the maritime provinces and elsewhere made 5 per cent.

The session in Montreal on Monday dealt chiefly with the boot and shoe industry. The manufacturers urged that the present tariff be maintained, as otherwise American goods would flood the Canadian market.

Score Luxury Tax

Loud complaint was launched against the luxury taxes instituted at the last session of parliament. All those who spoke claimed that these taxes were responsible for a considerable share of the present unemployment, but the public simply refused to buy shoes on which they would pay the taxes, and in consequence the country was overstocked with a class of shoes for which there had previously been a large demand.

The Textile Industry

On Tuesday the textile industry was discussed at length, J. F. Frame, K.C., appearing to represent Manitoba and Saskatchewan. He requested that information which had been compiled through questionnaires by the Board of Commerce be made public, and this Sir Henry Drayton promised to have done.

Long statements were made by Sir Charles Gordon on behalf of the Dominion Textiles Co., and by A. O. Dawson, of Canadian Cottons, Ltd., giving a variety of information with regard to the cotton business, but the Regina lawyer indicated that he had not yet got the information which will convince himself or his principals that a case has been made out.

A. H. Clement, president of the United Farmers of Quebec, presented a document in French setting forth that "to-day the farmer population of the province was less than in 1881." He attributed this to migration to the towns and cities. The memorandum further set forth that there was a migration from this province of thousands of farmers to Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire, all being farmers anxious to get better conditions, a better market, and cheaper agricultural implements and other supplies. To prevent this the United Farmers proposed an abolition of duties on agricultural implements and other machines farmers had to use. The price of agricultural implements had almost doubled within five years. The suggestion was made that a direct tax be placed on undeveloped natural resources and lands held for speculation, a further income tax based on degrees of wealth, increase in succession duties and a tax on the profits of industrial corporations.