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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GARMENT MANUFACTURERS

077321

Ottawa, July 18, 1924.

Mr. J. R. Shaw,
c/o Canada Furniture Manufacturers, Ltd.,
Woodstock, Ont.

Dear Mr. Shaw,-

I have yours of July 17th, and in further reference to this matter there is one impression which I got as a result of discussions with Mr. Forke and a number of other Progressive members of Parliament, and that is that, since coming to Ottawa, they have been educated to the fact that they cannot carry out all the wild theories which they advocated when they were elected. They have learned a lot since coming to Ottawa, but they do not feel inclined to go back to their supporters and admit that free trade is impossible and impractical, but I am convinced that they would be glad to have us present the case against low tariff as they have been up against it at Ottawa. In other words they would like to "pass the buck" and ask us to justify the fact that they have not succeeded in what they came here to do.

No Progressive member of Parliament has stated this to me, but, in discussions with them and reading between the lines, I have gained the impression that the leaders of the Progressive party are anxious that their constituents be informed on the tariff question from the manufacturer's standpoint. The split in the Progressive party is evidence of two groups. The more moderate group are those who realize that they cannot do all they promised to do, and I think they would be very glad to have the Western farmer shown the difficulties of the tariff situation. This to my mind is one reason why we should accept this invitation.

In so far as your being the right man to handle this situation, I feel that you are not a competent judge yourself on that question. I have discussed the matter with probably twenty manufacturers, and the unanimous opinion is that you should be prevailed upon to undertake this work.

Speaking ~~in~~ confidentially I might say that, if the invitation were sent direct to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, it is altogether likely that the President would, as a matter of course, be asked to undertake to present the manufacturers' views. It is no reflection on Mr. Hatch to say that he is not the proper man to undertake that duty. The matter is of too much importance to have any mistake made in the selection of the representative of the manufacturers, so that I trust that my assurance of having consulted with leading men in Canada and having their unbiased opinion on the matter will have some influence with you in leading you to consider the invitation.

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