

years ago, how much easier it is to calculate in dollars and cents than in pounds, shillings, pence, half-pennies and farthings."

RE UNDERVALUATION AND FALSE INVOICES.

The Toronto Board of Trade, under date of June 7th, forwarded to this Board a circular issued by their Dry Goods Section containing a long resolution declaring that it has been a matter of notoriety that efforts are being continually made to defraud the customs revenue by undervaluation and false invoices, and that it is necessary for the production of the honest importer in all such cases where there is an evident intention to defraud, that the utmost penalty of the law should be inflicted and no compromise made. It was further set forth that these frauds usually come from foreign firms having agencies in Canada, but having no domicile or available assets which the Government could seize; that their business is mostly done on orders taken and delivered direct, without carrying any or much stock, and therefore, unless the Customs detained and held all goods, the entries of which are doubtful as to the declared values, until the matter is finally settled, and the full duty and penalty which the law demands is exacted, there is little chance of the offenders being properly punished. Wholesale houses carrying heavy stocks have to contend against this rascally unfair competition. Several definite cases were reported where compromises had been made by the Government. The resolution concluded with the following words:—

"It is therefore only in justice to ourselves, the Revenue, and all honest traders, that we call upon the Government to let the law take its course and effect no compromises."