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It may be proper to here say that the grievances of these importers, as far as they relate to the administration of the customs laws, and to the advisability of maintaining outposts and unlit men in charge of them have nothing whatever to do with the tariff. If these importers frequently find cases where their customers are enabled to lay down in their stores imported goods cheaper than the importers care to sell them, unless fraud is being practised upon the Customs, perhaps it would be quite as well to allow matters to stand as they are. But there can be no question that simple and even-handed justice demands that there should be entire uniformity in the appraisement of imported merchandise.

Most likely the request to exclude the newspaper reporters grew out of the fact that on the subject of Canadian manufactures of textile fabrics the delegation were not unanimous, and because different shades of political opinion were represented. No doubt there were those present who, because they thought they could make a slightly larger profit by handling imported goods, would be quite willing to see Canadian manufacturing industries go to the wall, this accounting for their desire that those most interested in the matter--the Canadian consuming public--should be excluded from the audience, and kept in darkness as to the names of the selfish ones. It is rather remarkable, too, that these gentlemen who were reluctantly forced to admit that they did not possess any technical knowledge of the process of manufacture of the classes of goods they buy and sell, should announce that they believed that material reductions might be made in the duties. In view of this ignorance it was sweet, kind and exceedingly patronizing of them to assure the Commission, that they were prepared to support the Government in removing taxation from the consumer, particularly under circumstances where deserving industries would not be crippled. Which, in the opinion of these very respectable importers, are deserving industries? Will they kindly state.

The supercilious gentlemen, with hats in hand, before the Tariff Commission, also declared that they did not desire to have it inferred, from what they had said regarding lowering the tariff affecting the deserving manufacturers of textile fabrics, that they favored extraordinary solicitude for industries that had failed to prove their claim to existence as against reasonable competition: going so far as to declare that they advocated that specific duties to be done away with, and ad valorem duties be substituted in all cases.

No wonder these delightful gentlemen desired to exclude the reporters when they were thus antagonizing the manufacturing interests of Canada, proclaiming their ultra free trade views, and seeking by means of legislation to advance the interest of the importers and middlemen, who give no employment to skilled labor, and who are not employers of labor to any considerable extent, to the detriment of the interests of both employers and employees in Canadian factories. The presumption of these importers amounted to absolute impudence when they informed the Ministers that while they did not possess any technical knowledge--in fact did not know what they were talking about--regarding the process of manufacture of textile fabrics, they were quite willing and prepared to say, that in their interest, and in the interest of the whole country, large reductions should be made in the duties levied

upon the imports of such merchandise as they handled. And then, realizing that they had stopped over very much, they most kindly intimated a desire that deserving industries be not adversely affected by the change in the tariff that they suggested. In the face of the admission that they did not know what they were talking about, it was indeed refreshing for them to express a desire that deserving industries be not crippled. It was to be hoped, too, that these extremely unselfish gentlemen would have informed the Commission just which the industries were that had failed to prove their claim to existence as against reasonable competition. They should, too, have filed a diagram showing how and why it would be to the best interest of Canada, instead of their own personal and selfish selves, that specific duties be done away with entirely, and ad valorem duties be substituted in all cases.

JEWELERS AND SILVERSMITHS.

One of the most important and representative deputations that have yet confronted the Ministers was that representing the jewellers and silversmiths' section of the Board of Trade. It was composed of Messrs. W. K. McNaught, P. W. Ellis, M. C. Ellis, James Ryrie, Ambrose Kent, H. R. Playter, Edmund Sheuer, T. H. Lee, H. E. Anderson & Co., E. Gunther, Benjamin Kent, J. Davis, John Wanless, E. M. Morphy, Walter J. Barr, J. E. Ellis & Co., jewellers, and the following silversmiths: Messrs. E. Gooderham, Toronto Silver Plate Company; W. K. George, Standard Silver Plate Company; Roden Bros., manufacturers of sterling silverware; Saunders & Laurie; Julius Saunders, of H. & A. Saunders; A. H. Dewdney of Dewdney Bros., and E. Cohen of Cohen Bros., specialty manufacturers.

Mr. M. C. Ellis, the principal spokesman, before reading the memorandum prepared by the jewellers and silversmiths section, said that the deputation was thoroughly representative of all the kindred industries. They represented a class of merchants, wholesale and retail, and of manufacturers, amongst whom there existed no combination whatever. There were no restrictions on their trade, and free and untrammelled competition existed.

He read the following memorandum, setting forth the views and wishes of the jewellers and silversmiths:

With the exception of tower clocks (on which the duty is thirty per cent.) the present duty on clocks of all kinds imported into Canada is twenty-five per cent.

Tower clocks have for some years past been manufactured in Toronto and Montreal and have been found satisfactory both as regards quality and price. No other clocks of any kind are at present made in Canada.

This section, therefore, recommends that the present rate of duty upon tower and other clocks be allowed to remain as it is at present.

The present duty on watch movements imported without cases is ten per cent. Watch cases are dutiable at thirty-five per cent., and watches complete, that is both movement and case combined in one article, twenty-five per cent.

Watch movements have never been made in Canada, and owing to the difficulties in their construction and the large amount of capital required for their manufacture, we do not see any prospect of their being made here for many years to come. The duty on watch movements was formerly twenty per cent., but in 1887, in answer to petitions from the jewelry trade, wholesale and retail, the duty was lowered to its