

THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY.

A deputation of the Dominion Cigar Manufacturer's Association waited upon Sir Henri Joly, Minister of Inland Revenue, at Ottawa, on July 14th, at which Mr. Michael Hirsch, the president, pointed out that the association represented between seventy-five and eighty per cent. of the output of domestic cigars. He then read a statement in which it was pointed out that great injustice existed in the sale of Canadian tobaccos in the local markets. This Canadian grown, raw leaf tobacco pays no excise tax and interferes to a large extent with the sale of the manufactured article which bearing in addition to the costs of manufacture the revenue tax, cannot compete. Not only is this unfair competition injurious in this way, but from the fact that this leaf is placed upon the market in a raw and usually uncured state the confidence of smokers is lost to the merits of Canadian tobacco, and a vast amount of injury done to its standing and credit, which the plug and cut manufactures have been exploiting with growing success.

The members suggested that the sale of raw leaf should be entirely prohibited except, as in the United States, only to or through licensed leaf dealers.

After touching upon the excise tax of ten cents per pound and which, according to programme, will likely be increased, the following resolutions were presented for the consideration of the Government.

Resolved—That the Government be requested to prohibit the sale of loose leaf Canadian tobacco and that all transactions in this leaf be made only to and through licensed vendors, or that all raw leaf tobacco sold for consumption be made to pay the same excise tax as the manufactured article.

Resolved—That in view of the fact that the growers of Canadian tobacco are pressing for an increase in the tax of ten cents per pound now levied on foreign leaf, that the excise of \$6.00 per thousand on cigars be reduced in proportion.

The deputation afterwards met Hon. Mr. Paterson, Minister of Customs, when Mr.

Hirsch pointed out that since the imposition of the leaf tax of ten cents per pound levied on all foreign leaf used in the manufacture of cigars, the industry has been laboring under a disadvantage, with respect to the protection afforded by the existing duty of \$3.00 per pound and twenty-five per cent. ad valorem, collected on imported cigars. Although the number of cigars manufactured and entered for consumption during the past fiscal year shows a substantial increase, it is well-known that the net proceeds to Canadian manufacturers have on the other hand decreased to a very large extent.

The association requested that the duty on imported cigars should be fixed as in the United States at \$4.50 per pound, twenty-five per cent. ad valorem, and the addition of the excise tax of \$6.00 per thousand. At the present time cigars are being imported from foreign countries, outside of Cuba, and entered into direct competition with the only class of goods which Canadian manufacturers can make a fair business margin.

This request was embodied in a resolution

and presented to Mr. Paterson, and he in turn promised that the matter should receive consideration.

"FREE LOGS FOR FREE LUMBER."

At the annual meeting of the Ontario Lumbermen's Association recently held in Toronto, Mr. John Bertram, the president, presiding, presented a report reviewing the doings of the association. He had seen Sir Wilfrid Laurier in reference to a \$2 duty on lumber, but the Premier had informed him it was not the intention to make any changes in the tariff at present.

Speaking of the action of the Ontario Government in regard to the exporting of saw logs, he considered the reservation of Ontario logs for Ontario mills a matter of sufficient importance to justify the existence of the association, as they were largely responsible for bringing about that desirable result. Inflation and depression were the worst foes of the lumber industry, and it

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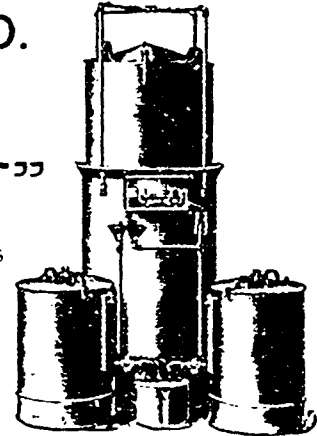
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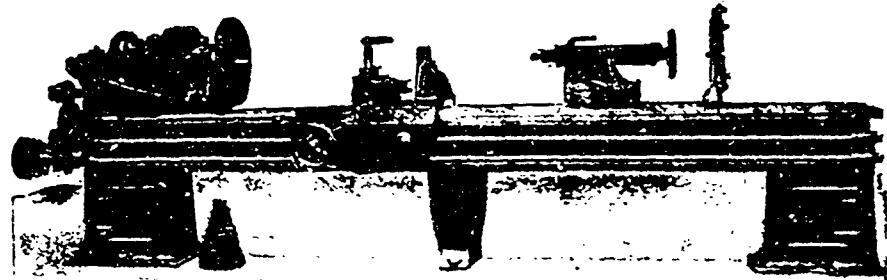
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