

the whole question of policy but the government would lay before parliament the facts on which their fiscal policy was based. This is not quite the same as the United States Tariff Commission.

The United States Tariff Commission was created by an Act of Congress during 1916 and consists of six members, of whom not more than three should be members of the same political party. Section 702, ch. 463, defines their duties, further amplified by Section 704, and these read as follows:—

"Sec. 702. That it shall be the duty of said commission to investigate the administration and fiscal and industrial effects of the customs laws of this country now in force or which may be hereafter enacted, the relations between the rates of duty on raw materials and finished or partly finished products, the effects of ad valorem and specific duties and of compound specific and ad valorem duties, all questions relative to the arrangement of schedules and classification of articles in the several schedules of the custom law, and, in general, to investigate the operation of customs laws, including their relation to the Federal Revenues, their effect upon the industries and labor of the country, and to submit reports of its investigations as hereafter provided."

"Sec. 704. The Commission shall have power to investigate the tariff relations between the United States and foreign countries, commercial treaties, preferential provisions, economic alliances, the effect of export bounties and preferential transportation rates, the volume of importations compared with domestic production and consumption, and conditions, causes and effects relating to competition of foreign industries with those of the United States, including dumping and cost of production."

The information it obtains is to be transmitted to the President, and to the Committee of Ways and Means of the House, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and for the President and either of these committees they shall make such investigations as they may be directed. The machinery of other departments of the government is placed at their disposal. They have large powers as to the summoning of witnesses and there is in the Act a quite proper provision that it shall be unlawful for any of the commission or of its staff to divulge knowledge of the trade secrets or processes obtained by them in the course of their investigations.

Already the scope of their enquiry is wide. There is in the Library of Parliament a full report of theirs on free zones in ports of the United States, which deals exhaustively with that important subject. I would call the attention of the Members of this House to that document as illustrating the thoroughness of their treatment of a subject which might be considered only