

That Compromise Case.

Resolution of The Montreal Wholesale Dry Goods Association.

REFERENCE has been made elsewhere to the fact that The Montreal Wholesale Dry Goods Association considered strong resolutions in regard to the Fitzgibbon-Shafheitlin case. The result of the special committee's deliberations is the following strong statement which has been forwarded to Ottawa:

That this association has heard with very great regret that the Government has settled, out of court, the case of the Crown vs. Fitzgibbon, Shafheitlin & Co., for undervaluation at the Customs House, when that case was actually under trial before the Exchequer Court,—

That the Government took a long time to make an exhaustive examination of the evidence in the case, and, after doing so, placed it in the hands of the law officers of the Crown for prosecution. The evidence sworn to in the trial proved that the position the Government had taken was the correct and only proper one,—

That this Association, which has always demanded from the Government fair and honorable administration of the Customs Act, sent strongly worded resolutions to the Government in January, September and October, 1898; in June, 1899, and in May of this year, it also sent a deputation to Ottawa to personally interview the Minister of Customs and the Minister of Justice,—

That, notwithstanding the serious harm that was being done to the honorable importers who adhered both to the spirit and letter of the law, the protection of whom was the bounden duty of the Government—not their betrayal; notwithstanding the wrong to the Government itself, which has been defrauded of large sums of revenue for a period of 12 years; notwithstanding the earnestly expressed wishes of the leading Boards of Trade of Canada, that no compromise should be made in cases where repeated and glaring frauds were established, but that in all such cases the full penalty should be inflicted as a punishment and also as a warning to anyone who might wish to follow a similar course; notwithstanding that this case was one of right or wrong, and not in any event one for compromise; notwithstanding the clear fact that, having once placed the matter in the hands of the court, the judge should alone have settled the case, and without any interference;

notwithstanding all the clear issues involved, the Government settled the case for a monetary consideration and the payment of costs incurred,—

That the true nature of the compromise effected is shown by the fact that the firm in question dared not continue the prosecution for libel which they had commenced against a prominent trade newspaper that had openly published an account of the whole case,—

That against this action of the present Government, and all similar actions of any Government, this Association indignantly protests, and places its protest on record. If undervaluation is proved to have been intentionally carried on for years, it is only right that the guilty should be punished. The offence should not be condoned,—

That the result of the very objectionable action of the Government is to hold out the strong inducement to all who desire to break the law that they may do so with impunity, and when found out may settle the case by repaying a small part of the undervaluation,—

That it is a matter for great regret that the efforts of this Association, and other Associations, in the cause of honest administration of the Customs laws, should have been so unsuccessful, and their petitions treated by the Government with such indifference and neglect.

"KABO" BUST PERFECTOR.

Brush & Co. will manufacture for the Fall the now celebrated "Kabo" bust perfector, which is to be worn over the corset, giving a bust of faultless proportion and masking every imperfection. Tailor-made jackets and snug-fitting waists are made to set with a degree of smartness when it is worn, and its lightness and ease make it far superior to any padding or building up. It may be worn without a corset and prove a splendid bust support. Shirt waist and blouse effects look chic over it, and are distended to just the right degree.

NEW COTTON MILLS AT HAMILTON.

Plans have been completed for the buildings of the Imperial Cotton Company, at Hamilton. They will include a main mill, three storeys in height, a two-storey finishing room, a large storage warehouse, boiler, machine and carpenter shops. When in operation it is expected that the plant will give employment to between 300 and 400 hands. Heavy cotton goods of various kinds will be manufactured, including car and machinery coverings, awnings, tarpaulins, etc. Tenders will be asked for shortly for the erection of the buildings.

William Mitchell



MANUFACTURER OF

Cocoa Mattings and Mats
Jute Mattings and Carpets

WOOL DUTCH and IMPERIAL
STAIR CARPETS.

Lettered Mats a Specialty.

COBOURG MATTING, MAT and CARPET WORKS

COBOURG, ONT.