

"First let me say that while the need of organizing public opinion in support of the policy of Practical Protection may have been the motive which called us into being nearly forty years ago, our interests and activities in that particular have long since been overtaken if not surpassed by our interests and activities in many other fields of legitimate effort.

"For years we have been engaged in a persistent campaign to cheapen the cost of Insurance, to improve the character of our risks and to reduce the fire hazard.

"We follow carefully the trend of all legislation, Federal and Provincial, and while initiating very little of our own accord, endeavour to see that in the class legislation promoted by others the interests of the manufacturing enterprise are not unduly trespassed upon.

"Our work in the field of Transportation has resulted in many improvements in the conditions of carriage, in the more equitable arrangement and classification, in a splendid form of bill of lading, in the removal of unjust discriminations and in the reduction of freight rates in general.

"In the cause of Education we have worked for such additions to, and improvements in Canadian school equipment as will permit of our artisans obtaining the knowledge and skill that will best fit them for the duties of their various callings and ultimately bring within their reach the high prizes in the gift of Canadian Industry.

"We have steadily refused to identify ourselves with questionable movements of any kind. With so-called trusts and combines we have no sympathy and no connection. The offices of the Association are not and never have been employed to promote unlawful trade agreements or used to assist in undue maintenance of prices. On the contrary our work is all legitimate work which we honestly believe makes for stability of business as a whole and which is thus directly beneficial to Canada at large.

"I have the honour to introduce to you Mr. T. A. Russell, Chairman of the Tariff Committee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and I ask your attention to the Memorial that Mr. Russell will have the honour to read to you."

Mr. T. A. Russell then presented the following Memorial:

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR WILFRID LAURIER, G.C.M.G., PREMIER AND PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.

The members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, in whose behalf we appear before you to-day, desire in the first place to thank you for this opportunity of laying before you their views on the question of closer trade relations between Canada and the United States, and of acquainting you more in detail than has been possible on previous occasions with their attitude towards the present tariff policy of the Dominion.

Business men all, trained in the school of competition, and required by the very nature of things to cultivate their faculties of observation to the fullest extent, they have watched with more than ordinary interest the returning crisis in the life of our young nation, when, through the renewal of the agitation for reciprocity with the United States, its commercial and industrial destinies would again be brought to the parting of the ways. If thus far no official pronouncement has been made by our Association upon a subject that is obviously fraught with deep significance to every form of Canadian manufacturing enterprise, it is because of the fact that we have viewed the situa-