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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GARMENT MANUFACTURERS

Ottawa, Ont.,

July 15, 1924.

Mr. J. R. Shaw,
c/o The Canada Furniture Co., Ltd.,
Woodstock, Ont.

Dear Mr. Shaw,-

A couple of weeks ago Mr. Robert Forke, Leader of the Progressives in the House of Commons, delivered an address in Ottawa, in which he stated, amongst other things, that one of the difficulties at the present time in Canada was that the manufacturers do not understand the farmers' problems, and the farmers do not understand the manufacturers' problems. His whole speech was an appeal for a better understanding between the various classes of the community.

This seemed to offer opportunity to see just how far Mr. Forke was willing to consider the problems of the manufacturer, and I took the liberty of writing him as the official head of the largest industry in the country and the most important, that is the clothing industry, whose product constitutes about 20% of the total cost of living. I suggested that, if he was interested in understanding the problems of this industry, I would be glad to have an hour or so of his time. He immediately replied and made an appointment, and we had a discussion lasting several hours.

During the course of the conversation he mentioned that, at the last meeting of the Manitoba Grain Growers, they passed a resolution appointing a committee to confer with manufacturers, but that nothing had been done in reference to it. He suggested that I might attend their convention and express publicly the sentiments which I expressed in our private conversation. I gathered from him that the Progressive members of Parliament were anxious that the manufacturers' case should be presented to the Western farmers. I do not feel competent myself to undertake such a heavy task single handed, although I told Mr. Forke that I would be glad to tell the story of the clothing industry. Personally I think there is only one man who can satisfactorily undertake this, and that is yourself.

It seemed to me that Mr. Forke's invitation to manufacturers to attend the Convention and state their case was of a good deal of importance and should be accepted. However, before taking any definite action, I went to Montreal and consulted a number of the leading manufacturers, including Mr. Daniels of the Dominion Textile Co., Mr. F. W. Stewart of Cluett, Peabody & Co., and Mr. Robertson of Montreal Cotton Co., and a number of others. I

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