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F. L. BENEDICT, Secretary.



IMPORTERS AND THE CUSTOMS.

In our last issue we referred briefly to the effort of the Montreal Board of Trade to secure Customs reform and we have now pleasure in placing before our readers the petition adopted by the Council of the Board. This movement was inaugurated by Mr. Henry Miles of the firm of Lyman Sons & Co. Great interest is taken in the matter here and it is likely that a large number of the sister Boards of Trade will co-operate towards obtaining the desired remedy. Signatures are being obtained in Montreal by trades and already a very large number have signed. The petition is "headed" by Mr. James A. Cantlie President Montreal Board of Trade and his name is followed by the other officers and the Council of the Board. Some three hundred wholesale firms signed during the first two days Wednesday and Thursday

of last week. All the Boards of Trade throughout the Dominion that Co-operate with the Montreal Board of Trade in this movement (there are about 100) will place their own individual petition before Parliament. In most instances the member for the district will present to the Common and the local Senator to the Senate. It is expected that Sir Donald A. Smith will present the Montreal petition to the House of Commons, but final arrangements have not been completed as we go to press. The Committee in charge of the Montreal petition are Messrs. C. F. Smith, J. T. McBride, David McFarlane, Wm. McNally and Henry Miles.

The petition is addressed severally to the Governor General, the Senate and the House of Commons.

*The Petition of the Undersigned Merchants,
Importers and Manufacturers of the
City of Montreal.*

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

That your Petitioners suffer from want of uniformity in the application of the Tariff and from the circumstance that there is no satisfactory recourse or remedy in matters of dispute as to classification for duty, value for duty, or in cases where Customs officials inflict injustice upon importers by erroneous and arbitrary rulings;

That your Petitioners believe that these grievances could be removed by the establishment by Parliament of a Board of Experts, with power to deal with all questions and disputes between Collectors of Customs and importers as to rates of duty or classification, and as to value for duty; also to act as a Board of Reference in matters of seizures to the end that the technical facts of a case may be established prior to publicity, and with a view to avoiding practical injustice through error or precipitate