

TARIFF COMMISSION—*Con.*

*Martin, W. M.*—*Con.*

—2731. One half of the supporters of the Conservative government in the House are mixed up with combines—2732. Tinware; has no doubt Mr. Lalor like Mr. Marshall had something to do with the Canners' combine—2733. There does not seem to be unanimity amongst the government supporters in regard to this Bill—2734. If the late government were in power there would be a committee now to investigate the Cement Combine—2735. Adequate protection, a tariff wall high enough to keep out competition from any foreign country—2736. What the people of the west desire is not protection, but more open markets—2737. Favours a gradual reduction on the necessities of life. Have heard in the west about unfair industries—2738. We know now that the policy of the government is one of adequate protection. Quotes section 4 and 5—2739. Probably all the commissioners will be men who are in favour of protection—2740. The result will be to foist on the people of Canada a higher protective tariff—2741.

*Meighen, Arthur* (Portage la Prairie)—2689.

Mr. Oliver's vehemence a compliment to the merits of the Bill—2689. This Bill goes to improve the public service. Can conceive no other purpose in it, can see no ghost behind it—2690. It provides a means that can expand with the certain expansion of our industrial life. Reasons of opposition—2691. As to mandate. An implied mandate would suffice even if a specific pledge had not been proffered and accepted—2692. German statesmen at one time belonged to the school now represented in the House by the lonely member for Red Deer—2693. For years back the Liberal party had been an organized anomaly as regards its fiscal policy—2694. The proper policy is the policy of protection doing justice to the consumer as well as to all others—2695. The Bill is a specific implementing of a specific promise. It is only a step. The principle here embodied should be expanded—2696.

*Middlebro, W. S.* (North Grey)—2668.

The three heads under which opposition to this Bill may be summarized—2668. Mr. Guthrie says there is no reason for bringing in this legislation. Quotes him—2669. Would like to know the difference between a Tariff Bureau and a Tariff Commission. It is a difference of name—2670. Quotes Pres. Taft, he answered Mr. Guthrie. Inconsistencies between Mr. Guthrie and Mr. Maclean. Their line of arguments shows weakness—2671. It is a principle of party government that the party in power should appoint officials in whom they have confidence—2672. The time has come when we must have some regularly constituted body with proper powers of investigation—2673. The cement manufacturers and the complaints in the west as to price and duty—2674. The commission proposed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier would exactly do what this Commission should

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do. Reads the resolution—2675. The Commission will only have power to investigate and report, less power than the Railway Commission—2676. What the Waterways Commission can do. Quotes their report—2677. Did it ever occur to any one that the government in granting these powers was subverting the constitution—2678. Mr. Guthrie proposed a commission on technical education. You must have facts in forming your tariff—2679. On the report of this commission the government will come to a decision as to what tariff legislation is desirable—2680. Quotes Mr. Fielding. Anxiety for information in the Reciprocity debate. Mr. Sharpe and Mr. Perley inquire—2681. The American representatives knew the position exactly, every move was made on accurate information—2682. The kind of information these gentlemen in the United States gathered—2683. Wool. The duties of the commission—2684. Much pleasure in supporting the Bill—2685.

*Nesbitt, E. W.* (North Oxford)—2696.

Heard Mr. White with pleasure—2696. The best way to get information is by a statistical branch in connection with the Finance Department. People will insist on seeing the minister—2697. Even with the Tariff Commission it will still be necessary for the Finance Minister to visit various parts of the country, and get his information first hand—2698. Is in favour of a reasonable protection, but it depends altogether on what you call reasonable protection. Any commission can colour its reports—2699. First it was 'Let well enough alone.' Next it was 'Where is it leading us?' Mr. Fielding's was the best tariff ever compiled in Canada—2700. On a question of this kind you want men of ability, but you want men of more than ability—2701. He could compile just as good a tariff by means of a tariff bureau within his own department—2702.

*Oliver, Hon. Frank* (Edmonton)—2685.

Are going henceforth to be governed by commission. Economy of the government—2685. There must be a purpose beyond the collection of information, to found upon that information changes in the tariff—2686. At the present time the business conditions of this country are exceedingly favourable, except in case of fixed salaries—2687. This commission intended to humbug the people. The men appointed as political partisans to do certain work in justification of party policy—2688. The government elected on the cry 'let well enough alone.' This commission will lay the wires through which the power will be turned on later—2689.

*Thompson, Alfred* (Yukon)—2741.

Believes that the principle of the Bill is proper and that its methods are workable—2741. The commission can have no legislative powers. Parliament alone can