

than one-half the cost than in Canada. Mr. Allan asked for increase in the duty upon the finished product and a decrease in the duty of raw material in the new industry. The average tax on the raw material used is 28½ per cent., which, being deducted from the duty on the finished article, leaves 4 per cent. protection, which Mr. Allan said was not enough to enable the Canadian manufacturer to hold his own against the American competitor. He asked that 40 per cent. be levied on sewed cotton clothing, and the present duty on embroideries be reduced to 20 per cent. until such time as Swiss and Hamburg embroideries were manufactured in Canada.

The deputation from the wholesale dry goods trade of Toronto were thoroughly practical in the presentation of their case. It was not a request specially for changes in the duty. Different views are held among themselves on this point. They were anxious, however, to know when any changes were likely to take place, and made the very reasonable request that good notice be served on them before changes in the tariff. As importers, without this information, they might be let in for serious loss. They also pointed out a difficulty in the customs arrangements. Not so much in Toronto, but in smaller places the customs officers seemed to have very little knowledge of the duties that ought to prevail on particular lines of goods. The Collector in smaller places has been as a rule appointed more for political service than for any business qualification and his capacity as an appraiser is necessarily limited. The wholesale men have frequently found cases sometimes accidental, sometimes, it is believed intentional, where some of their customers have by these means secured goods at a lower rate than themselves. They asked that the policy of the Government be in the direction of lessening the number of ports of entry, so that equality might be secured.

The workmen had a request to make of the commissioners. A deputation representative of the Toronto Typographical Union entered a protest against the cheap rates at which stereotype plates were admitted. It meant taking away type setting from the Canadian printer. The rate on newspaper plates was three-eighths of a cent per square inch, equal to about six or seven cents a thousand for composition. The rate on book plates was two cents per square inch, equal to sixteen cents a thousand, while the rate of wages in this country for setting type was about thirty cents a thousand. They would like to see an increase of duty on plates and books.

One of the most important and representative deputations from Toronto was that of the jewellers and silversmiths. Mr. M. C. Ellis was the principal spokesman. He entered with some detail into the different branches of the business, such as clocks, watches, diamonds, precious stones, watch cases and electro plate ware. The deputation were strong advocates of protection and believe that this is necessary to the success of their business. The present duty on watch movements, imported without cases, is 10 per cent. ad val., watch cases are dutiable at 35 per cent. ad val., and watches complete, that is both movement and case combined in one article 25 per cent. ad val. Canadian jewellers have benefited very largely by a duty of 25 per cent. ad val. upon unset diamonds entering into the United States and are doing a large and increasing trade with American tourists with diamond jewellery. A duty on unset diamonds would kill this trade and seriously handicap the manufacturing jewellers of Canada who mount these stones. For these reasons the deputation recommend that diamonds and other precious stones be placed upon the free list. The duty on gold and silver articles commonly known as jewellery is at present 25 per cent. ad val. and it is recommended that this duty be continued as at present. The present arrangement of duties on watch movements 10 per cent. ad val. and watch cases 35 per cent. ad val. has been so satisfactory and has proved of such advantage to the trade and the public generally that the deputation were unanimous in recommending its continuance. Electro plated and hollow ware is 30 per cent. ad val. These goods are largely manufactured in Canada, the call being fully equal to that in the United States, from which country the bulk of these goods were formerly imported and prices are fully as low as obtained in that country. It was recommended that the present rate of duty levied upon electro plate, flat and hollow ware of all kinds, namely 30 per cent. ad.

val. be maintained. They also requested that the present duty of 30 per cent. ad val. on sterling silver flat and hollow ware be maintained.

All sorts and conditions of tradesmen had their say before the Commission. J. S. Russell, who is famed as a local curler, appeared before the Commission asking for change of duty in spar beads imported for cheap jewellery, but he wanted coring stones to remain on the free list. Mr. Russell stated that the rock of Ailsa Craig, Scotland, is the only one known to exist for the purpose. He hoped there would be no duty imposed, mildly threatening at the same time that 10,000 curlers are also voters.

The carriage makers, pork packers, manufacturers of laundry and toilet soaps, envelope manufacturers and those using gold leaf for frame gildings and sign writing each had their particular request.

The milling interests presented a vigorous protest against the lowering of duties on grain or flour. On a former occasion INDUSTRIAL CANADA has dealt with this question, pointing out how seriously flour milling would be interfered with if the present duty of 75 cents a barrel was removed and the huge mills of the United States allowed to ship in their surplus stock. The reasons for maintaining present conditions in this trade were vigorously stated by Mr. M. McLaughlin, C. B. Watts and J. L. Spink. In Montreal and also in Western Ontario the millers' interests were likewise represented by well-known leaders in the trade, who, with few exceptions, maintained the same view. Miller Campbell, of St. Thomas, said he did not fear reciprocity and believed he could compete with United States millers. But in this particular trade it must be admitted that members are generally unanimous on the inadvisability of any change.



HON. W. S. FIELDING
MINISTER OF FINANCE.

THE COMMISSION IN HAMILTON.

One of the first interests to present their case on the opening of the investigation in Hamilton was the fruit growers. A large business has been built up in Canada in nursery stock and the trade are of the opinion that the present duty on fruit trees should be maintained. Mr. Edward Morris, representing Morris, Stone & Wellington, said that the business had increased in the last twenty years, but that over-production in the United States had so demoralized the trade that a removal of the tariff would drive the nurserymen out of the business and would probably entail a loss of the money they had invested in it. In answer to the inquiry of Commissioner Fielding how the farmer, who wants to buy these goods, viewed the imposition of a duty, and the possible increase of duty, Mr. Brown stated that it has been shown that when the duty is taken off the people buy the goods no cheaper. During the period when there was no duty on goods coming into Canada the price lists remained the same on this side. While the wholesale price of goods in Canada was now higher, goods are sold no higher at retail.

Senator Sanford, representing the ready-made clothing industry of Canada, exhibited two overcoats, one of Canadian, the other of American manufacture as an argument why the duty should not be reduced. The Canadian coat which was well made of wool and trimmed with goods of Canadian manufacture, the Senator stated, cost wholesale \$5.75. It would give a farmer three years' good service. The American garment which was an exceedingly poor looking affair was made of cotton, cotton waste and bagging and was sold wholesale in New York at \$1.30. It would wear from thirty to sixty days if the wearer kept out of the rain. The duty on this coat, which, the Senator said was worse than shoddy, is 5 cents a lb., and 30 per cent. or nearly 50 per cent. Mr. Sanford argued that it was the duty of the Government to protect the public from such trash as that which was represented by the American coat. Senator Sanford stated that he employed about 3,100 people, mostly at piecework, and paid out in wages about \$600,000 a year.

The soap industry and also the manufacture of coffees and spices, and the glass industry were represented by strong deputations. The general request was that no changes should be made in the tariff on these goods.

The Wholesale Grocers' Guild of Hamilton, appeared before the commissioners to ask that the imposts on several important