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## THE TARIFF COMMISSION AND THE MANUFACTURERS.

A special telegram to The Globe on November 11th, from Ottawa, stated that Hon. Mr. Fielding, Minister of Finance, had that day authorized the following announcement respecting the tariff inquiry:

The Ministers who are to conduct the inquiry will begin their work at Toronto on Tuesday morning next, the 17th inst. They will remain in Toronto three days, and perhaps a day or two longer if necessary. The Board of Trade rooms

have been kindly placed at the disposal of the Ministers for the purpose of the inquiry, and will be used as far as may be found convenient. In some cases, doubtless, it will be found convenient for the Ministers to receive deputations at their hotels. Parties who desire to be heard are requested to give early notice to Mr. Edgar A. Wills, Secretary of the Board of Trade, Toronto, who will make the necessary arrangements. While the Ministers will endeavor to receive all who have views to present, it is hoped that representatives of the different lines of industry may be chosen, so that as much ground as possible may be covered in the time available. The Ministers will subsequently visit Hamilton, London and possibly other points in Ontario. Dates for these visits will be announced hereafter.

At the appointed time and place the Commission were on hand ready for business, but before the proceedings opened Hon. Mr. Fielding addressed the newspaper reporters present, to whom he said it was the desire of the Ministers that the reporters should be present at all the interviews that might be had, but if there should be any deputations that might object the reporters would be invited to retire. There were but few objectors to the presence of the reporters during all the time the Commissioners were in Toronto. In the first day, when the importers and wholesale dealers in dry goods, represented by the Dry Goods Section of the Board of Trade, appeared, they objected to the presence of the reporters, who were accordingly excluded. Speaking of the first day's session The Globe's report said:—

The arguments must be said to have had a very selfish character throughout. Possibly nothing else could have been expected under the circumstances. In any event the poor consumer, who is in the end the most affected of all, was not represented by any of those who came before the Ministers yesterday.

## BAKING POWDER.

The first gentleman to interview the Commission was Mr. Wm. Dobie, the Canadian manager of E. W. Gillett, manufacturer of yeast cakes, baking powder, lye and washing crystal. Mr. Dobie stated that the firm which he represented had its headquarters in Chicago and it had a manufacturing branch in Toronto. If the duty on the goods were reduced materially his Company would manufacture altogether in Chicago instead of in Toronto. Personally Mr. Dobie said that he would rather remain here. The firm had an extensive plant, employed about fifty hands inside and kept ten men on the road. It was on account of the present duty that the firm in 1886 was obliged to come to Toronto to manufacture. Before that time and when the duty was twenty per cent. he used to sell goods in Canada that were made in the United States. The present duty was six cents a pound on yeast cakes and on baking powder, equivalent to an ad valorem duty of about 100 per cent. He stated that he sold goods here to the wholesale groceries at identically the same prices as the firm obtained in the United States. It had three factories in the United States and the cost to the consumer was the same in the United States as in Canada. He said that the firm was obliged to meet competition in compressed yeast, which in bulk is admitted at three cents a pound. There was sharp competition in baking powders from the United States. If the duty were reduced to twenty per cent. it would pay the firm better to manufacture in Chicago instead of Toronto. He thought the duty on compressed yeast and hop yeast should be the same. In most businesses, Mr. Dobie said, if the protection were as high as it is on yeast the cost to the consumer