

they are, the great producers and consumers of the world : and the more public Legislation will add to their welfare and consequent spending power, the more it will do for the fostering of all the other branches of national greatness ;

That up to this time, the fiscal policy of the Government has been such as to afford them but indirect and limited although undeniable advantages, whilst as rightly contended by our petitioners, direct benefits and profits could be bestowed on them without encroaching on the welfare of other classes, or in any wise interfering with the national policy ;

That, for instance, the consumption of tobacco, which grows from year to year to immense proportions, goes almost exclusively to the making of the fortunes of foreign farmers, when it is a well known fact that our soil is well adapted for the production of the first quality of tobacco ;

That the inability of the Canadian farmers to compete with other and remote parts of the world is due entirely to our fiscal legislation, which practically puts foreign producers, already skilled in this branch of agriculture, on the same footing as our people, foreign leaf tobacco entering in the Customs free of duty, whilst Canadian tobacco is subjected to the same excise duties, if mixed with the imported leaf ;

That your petitioners beg to suggest that the system of excise duties, which might have been the only possible system years ago, when the tobacco industry was in its infancy, is fast being driven to the class of antiquated notions, surrounded as it is with a complicated, useless, and expensive machinery, involving too much technicality and red tape ;

That, through its unjust mode of collecting duties, the