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**THE TARIFF COMMISSION.**

Canadian manufacturers, and consumers also, are interested in the question as to what the Government are going to do about the tariff. A demand oft repeated is for a revision which will give our manufacturers greater control of the home market, or, as frequently expressed, keep out the flood of American goods, as that feature of our foreign trade seems to be uppermost in the minds of many who consider that the question should receive more attention at the hands of the Government than it does. The Minister of Finance, at the time when recent changes in the tariff were announced, stated that it was the purpose of the Government to investigate the question thoroughly by a commission before laying any further scheme of revision before Parliament; and the Premier has promised the same thing; but who are to constitute the commission, and when it is to be constituted are questions at present unknown to the public. Perhaps the matter will receive the attention it deserves when the unfortunate discussion of the autonomy of the new provinces is ended.

It may be that the composition of the proposed commission will be essentially the same as that of 1897, and that the method of procedure will be the same.

Of that Commission the Finance Minister was chairman, and the Minister of Customs and the Minister of Trade and Commerce were members. It was composed solely of Ministers. It visited the various industrial centres and received all deputations that had any recommendations or petitions to present. A large mass of opinion was in this way collected. Unquestionably the balance of the testimony was over-whelmingly on the side of protection, but the Ministers had too recently been engaged in a campaign against protection to yield readily to the consideration urged on that side. The result of the Commission's inquiries was the tariff of 1897, which was something of the nature of a straddle. To meet the wishes of free traders several raw materials were placed on the free list, many specific duties were replaced by ad valorem duties, and sundry reductions were made. To suit the advocates of closer commercial relations with Great Britain the British

**THE SPIRIT OF INQUIRY.**

Advertising is one of the greatest of educational forces. Education means rousing the spirit of inquiry. The easy and the sensible way to rouse this spirit in any human being is to tell him of something which he does not know and which it will be clearly to his advantage to know. The man with something good to sell is therefore in a position to increase the sum of human comfort and happiness—and the more he benefits himself, the more does he increase that sum.

A few years ago advertising was in a very crude state; it is still not quite the exact science it is going to be. For an exact science it must be—just as any other form of teaching.

Commerce is the great civilizer; advertising is to commerce what the teacher is to learning.

preference was granted. To please the protectionists the duties on manufactured articles were kept above a revenue basis in most cases and the bounties were retained.

It has been urged by some that the commission should include men interested in some of the commercial pursuits of the country—in manufacturing, in transportation, in merchandising, in agriculture and in both internal and external commerce—men who would have the welfare of the country entirely at heart, and who could raise themselves above mere political party influences.

If this latter composition were ignored, as it would most probably be, and the other observed, composed as it would be chiefly by Cabinet Ministers; or if included in it were men of both political parties, there would be, of course, a preponderance of members in full accord with the Government, and whatever the majority of the commission might report would be the basis of whatever action the Government might take. It is not at all probable that the Government would pay any attention to a demand for a mixed and heterogenous commission, which, even if it should agree upon a report, which would seem impossible, would to any extent prove acceptable to the Government.

It is a pleasing delusion to think that under any circumstances whatever the tariff question is not one of politics, and that it can be lifted out of and placed above political influence. It cannot be; and it is not at all probable that as long as the present Government are in power there will be any startling changes in the tariff.

**MARCONI STATIONS IN CANADA.**

We have been in receipt of many enquiries regarding the number and locations of the Marconi wireless telegraph stations in Canada, and now have pleasure in giving accurate and official information regarding them.

The Marconi system in Canada is directly in charge of and under the management of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, of which Hon. Raymond Prefontaine is the Minister. The Department has six Marconi wireless stations in operation and six under construction, which, it is expected, will at an early day be ready for use.