

Trade and Commerce and myself, at an interview last winter, that no change would be made in the tariff. It has always been a proper tradition of the Finance Department, and of every finance minister—and I may say one that I have continued, and will continue in the future—that no representations or statements of any kind whatsoever are made, except to Parliament, with regard to any proposed changes in the tariff.

Mr. GRAHAM : What about Currie ?

Mr. WHITE : The hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Currie) is quite capable of taking care of himself even as against the late Minister of Railways. In order to establish beyond all doubt the wilful character of the misrepresentation made by the writer of that letter as to what occurred at the interview between the Minister of Trade and Commerce and myself, and the manufacturers of cement, I shall read a letter which came to hand three or four days afterwards, from one of the manufacturers, and which shows conclusively that no such undertaking was given as alleged, and that no representations of any kind were made. The cement manufacturers were heard, and they were informed in the usual way that the Government would give consideration to the matter which was discussed. On the 25th of January, 1912, a few days after the interview, I received this letter:

Toronto, 25th Jan., 1912.

Hon. W. T. White,
Minister of Finance,
Ottawa, Can.
Re Portland Cement.

Dear Sir,—As promised I enclose you a copy of the memorandum used by the delegation that waited on you and the Hon. Mr. Foster on Friday last setting out facts and conditions relating to the manufacture of Portland cement in Canada, which we consider furnish good reasons why there should be no reduction in the existing rate of duty on this commodity and why it is necessary in the interests of the industry in Canada that there should be a rigid enforcement of the Dumping provisions of the Customs Act.

Clause 6 of this Act refers to the importation into Canada at a price less than the fair market value of the article when sold for home consumption in the usual and ordinary course in the country whence exported to Canada at the time of its exportation to Canada.

The facts and figures set out in our memorandum show that any cement imported into Canada from the United States at the price at which it is now selling in Canada must be sold at the place of manufacture at a much less price than it costs to make. Surely this cannot be said to be the fair market value for home consumption in the usual and ordinary course of business. It is not most extraordinary? If this is not the kind of thing that

the Dumping Clause of our Customs law is intended to prevent, then what are the conditions to which the clause is intended to apply?

Trusting that the memorandum contains such information as may be useful to you in dealing with the matter, and that there will not only be no reduction in the duty, but that the Government will see that the provisions of the Customs Act as to dumping will be rigidly enforced for the fair and reasonable protection of our cement industry.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES PEARSON.

Does that letter imply that any representations were made ?

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou) : Who wrote that letter ?

Mr. WHITE : Mr. Pearson, one of the representative men on that delegation. Is not that conclusive evidence ? Does it not prove beyond peradventure, even to the satisfaction of my hon. friend from Edmonton, that not even by implication were representations made that anything would be done or would not be done. Let me first direct the attention of the House to the clause in the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, under authority of which the cut was made. Section 92 of that Act provides that the Governor in Council whenever he deems it right and conducive to the public good may remit any duty or toll payable to His Majesty, imposed or authorized to be imposed by any Act of the Parliament of Canada, and such remission may be total or partial, conditional or unconditional, &c. What were the circumstances under which the cut was made ? My hon. friend says that in the letter written by the Acting Prime Minister the statement was made that there was no intention of reducing the duty on cement, and that statement was absolutely true. The statement was made in that letter at that date, because it was true, and my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) need not be surprised to find a true statement in a letter. What happened ? There had been rumours from time to time of a shortage in cement but the matter was not definitely brought to the attention of the Government. On May 31, 1912, we received this :

Winnipeg, May 31, 1912.

We are unable to purchase supplies of cement in Canada for immediate use. We have large paving contracts at Regina and Edmonton. Great loss to ourselves and inconvenience to the public will be entailed unless supplies secured immediately. Can you suspend duty to such extent as will meet Canadian price until situation is relieved.

National Paving and Cement Company.

This was the first time it had been brought to my attention that any particular