

engaged in manufactures, and competent to give information with respect to the condition of their respective industries.

4. With few exceptions the aforesaid witnesses have admitted that they have enjoyed a large measure of prosperity under the operation of revenue tariffs. They have all professed the fullest confidence in their ability to compete, if placed on equal terms, with foreign manufacturers on the American continent.

5. In certain foreign and colonial markets they are also already competing successfully with foreign rivals, and in some cases are finding a market in Great Britain for Canadian manufactured goods.

6. Whilst in some instances the cost of skilled labour in the United States and Canada appears to be nearly equalized in many classes of goods, the cost of production is much lower in Canada than in the United States.

7. During the past year the fall of values, caused by over-production and the financial crisis in the United States, have caused large importations into Canada of United States' manufactured goods, at prices alleged to be from fifteen to twenty per cent. under prime cost, greatly to the detriment of the Canadian manufacturer.

8. As such transactions can only be attended with ruinous sacrifices to the foreign producer, your Committee regard them as exceptional and unlikely to be of frequent recurrence. They arrive at this conclusion the more readily, inasmuch as it does not appear that in the memory of manufacturers many years in business, the same cause for complaint has previously existed.

9. Your Committee also call attention to the fact, that it is admitted by more than one witness, that no reasonable addition to the existing Canadian tariff would have altogether excluded importations made under the severe financial pressure which has lately existed in the United States.

10. Persons engaged in the wholesale manufacture of clothing complain of the importation, chiefly from Great Britain, of large quantities of goods manufactured from cheap materials, designated as "Shoddy."

11. The Canadian manufacturers urge the imposition of a special duty on these goods to such an extent as may discourage their use and importation into Canada.

12. The goods last referred to are purchased largely by persons of limited means, and your Committee do not regard it as the function of the State either to enact sumptuary laws or legislation tending to interfere with the rights of the people to exercise their own intelligence in the choice of their wearing apparel.

13. It has moreover been stated in evidence before your Committee, that materials for the manufacture of cheap cloths of the description before-named exist in abundance in Canada, if the manufacturers of woollen goods chose to provide the machinery suited to its production.

14. Your Committee believe a very powerful impetus will be given in Canada to manufactures for export if a drawback be allowed on the imported dutiable materials used in the production of goods so exported.

15. Your Committee also call attention to the fact that improved facilities for communication between Canada and the West Indies, and between Canada and the countries of Central and South America, would open a very large field for the development of the Canadian export trade in manufactured goods.

16. Serious complaints have been made to your Committee of goods from the United States being allowed to enter Canada on the payment of duties upon prices below the actual value.

17. Your Committee believe that the legislation now under the consideration of Parliament, will, to a large extent, remove this alleged grievance.

18. Many of the witnesses have assured your Committee, that if by the imposition of increased duties, the importation of British and Foreign goods of descriptions manufactured in Canada, were largely reduced or prevented, the cost to the home consumer would not be increased. They represent that their own greater production would reduce the relative cost of their manufactured goods, and allege that home competition, stimu-