

A SUGGESTION FOR THE TARIFF COMMISSIONERS.

By ROBERT C. WILKINS.

BEING asked if I have been before the Tariff Commission as a manufacturer of shirts, etc., etc., I reply "No" for the following reasons: Having understood that if I presented myself alone for an interview, only ten minutes would be accorded me; and if with a delegation, half-an-hour for the whole party. In ten minutes, or even half-an-hour, it would be simply impossible for anyone to go into the details of the manufacture of my line; the approximate amount of capital invested, the number of people employed, wages paid, the relation our business bears towards the cotton and woolen manufacturers of Canada, the position of the industry before and since protection, and before and since the specific duty was levied on shirts; the difference between wages paid here and in American "sweat shops" and in Europe, the needs of our working people compared with those of Europe and many other questions relative to our business.

The honorable Ministers who hear, at 10 o'clock, the difference between scissors for barbers and shears for tailors, key rings, anchors, etc., at 10.30 diamonds and watches, at 11 hessian and its finishing for bags, at 11.30 roofing slates and school slates, must have exceptionally clear heads if they keep these different articles and conflicting ideas in any sort of business regularity in their minds.

It is argued that we have the privilege of leaving with the Commission a written statement of any facts or ideas we wish to submit; this is, in itself, very good, but no good lawyer who wishes to gain a suit for his client would simply hand his brief to the presiding judge and allow him to form his opinion, without first pleading his case with all the eloquence he was possessed of. It is not always what you say, but the way you say it, that produces the effect.

My idea is that for the large industries it would have been much better had the Commission announced that on a certain date in Toronto they would be ready to hear the manufacturers of, say, clothing; in Montreal on a certain date they would hear the manufacturers of shirts, etc., and in Quebec the boot and shoe manufacturers, and instead of giving half an hour in six or seven places, give the representatives of each line three or four hours at one place to thoroughly discuss the whole question from start to finish in each particular line they heard.

I believe the Canadian manufacturers would willingly have gone to any large centre, feeling that ample time would be given for a fair discussion of the whole subject concerning their production, and I am thoroughly convinced the ultimate results would have been much more beneficial.

I trust that before the Session opens the manufacturers of shirts, etc., may go to Ottawa and have a lengthy interview with the Minister of Finance to intelligently plead our cause, which is also the cause of thousands of poor women and girls who earn a good living in this line of manufacturing.

NEW DRESS TRIMMING.

The latest thing in dress trimming is the "Bolero." It is made of lace or cord on a net or lawn ground. It is worn over the dress and no other trimming is needed. They are made in various styles. The commonest is slipped on like a jacket, and can be worn with any dress. In another style the parts are left unattached under the armpits, so that they can be made to fit any figure perfectly. Others, again, are open at the back. Kyle, Cheesebrough & Co. have a full line in all the different styles and makes. One of their finest lines is made of braid on net. The net is cut away, leaving the open braid work.

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