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Index to Advertisers Page 42

J. J. CASSIDY, - - - *Editor and Manager***THE TORONTO FAIR.**

Now that the Fair Association is recognizing the fact that the manufacturers are an important department of the annual exhibition and are constructing suitable buildings for the proper display of machinery, the manufacturers should interest themselves in the Fair and endeavor to make it a success. There is no exhibit at any fair more attractive than that of machinery in motion, but as this entails an expense which in many cases cannot be afforded by exhibitors, it has been suggested that the provincial Government be asked to provide funds sufficient to cover a portion of the cost. The present is the time to bring this matter before the provincial authorities, as it is only a few months before the Fair will be opened. If the manufacturers are offered fair treatment in the matter of housing their exhibits, and in the providing of power for machinery, there will, no doubt, be a large increase in the number of exhibits, assisting materially in giving the Toronto Industrial Fair a greater reputation than it at present enjoys. A good showing this season will go far towards making a success of the Dominion Exhibition which it is proposed to hold in Toronto next year.

MODERN TARIFF SYSTEMS.

The United States Treasury Bureau of Statistics have issued a monograph entitled "Modern Tariff Systems," which is of considerable interest to all students of the tariffs of different countries.

It presents in concise form a statement of the three distinct tariff systems now applied in the principal commercial countries of the world, and is of special interest at this time in view of the tariff discussions and pending tariff legislation in certain European countries. The tariff systems now in use among the prominent commercial countries of the world may be classed under three heads: (1) The general tariff system; (2) the general and conventional tariff system; and (3) the maximum and minimum tariff system. The system of a general tariff is the simplest of those enumerated, and consists in having a single schedule of import duties, which is applied to the goods of all countries without distinction. Such a tariff is altogether an act of the legislative branch of the government. It takes account only of the needs of the home country, and recognizes foreign commercial relations only in so far as the latter are in harmony with home interests.

The Canadian Manufacturer

Reaches all the Blast Furnaces, Iron and Steel Works, Rolling Mills, Manufacturers of Iron and Wood-Working Machinery, Steam Engines and Boilers, Pumping and Mining Machinery, Electric Machinery and Appliances, Machinery Dealers and Steam Fitters' Supplies, all Hardware Dealers, Cotton, Woolen, Knitting and Yarn Mills, Pulp and Paper Mills, etc., in Canada.

The system of general and conventional tariffs, however, makes a distinction between goods which come from different countries. The fact that nations which make use of a general tariff often find themselves compelled to change this tariff when they later make commercial treaties is evidence of how difficult it is to maintain such a tariff intact. But since modern nations are practically compelled to have more or less commercial relations with each other, some way of regulating these relations must be found, and the usual method of securing this end is by means of a mutual understanding between the countries in question. Generally one nation declares itself ready to grant some concession or reduction in its tariff if a corresponding concession is offered in return. If an agreement is reached, a treaty is then made, and as a rule the willingness is expressed to make further treaties with other countries under similar conditions. Such a treaty will usually introduce new tariff rates. If the state substitutes these rates for those in the general tariff, then no change in the system takes place. The usual course, however, is for the state to now maintain two columns in its tariff schedule; the first for those countries enjoying the "most favored nation" treatment, which is called the treaty or conventional tariff, and the second containing the original rates, for those countries not receiving this treatment, and termed the general tariff.

The rates of the conventional tariff are, of course, never higher than those of the general schedule, and are usually lower. It may be, however, that one nation regards it of importance that a certain rate, a reduction of which is refused by the other power, should not be increased during the period for which the treaty is made. The making of an agreement that rates shall not be changed is termed "binding" such rates. That is, the conventional tariff schedule is composed of reduced and "bound," or fixed rates. The general schedule may be changed at any time without breaking any of the conditions of the treaty, but, the conventional schedule can only be changed by the consent of both parties.

The general tariff is framed with the acknowledged purpose of being the basis for the negotiations of commercial treaties. A conventional schedule is drawn up in these treaties, and, by the action of the most favored nation clause, the conventional tariff becomes so extended in application that, as a rule, it is the exception to apply the general tariff. For this reason, the general tariff is regarded mainly in the light of a preliminary sketch of the real tariff. As a consequence, the rates in the