

WHAT PRINTERS WANT.

TORONTO EMPLOYING PRINTERS PRESENT THEIR VIEWS ON THE TARIFF TO THE MINISTERS.

THE deputation from the Toronto Employing Printers' Association, which waited upon the Tariff Commission (Hon. Messrs. Fielding and Paterson) on the 9th inst., at Toronto, was made up of Messrs. Daniel Rose, president, A. F. Rutter, James Murray, W. Apted, Fred. Diver, D. A. Rose and Jas. Dudley. Mr. D. Rose read the document embodying the wishes of the association in tariff matters, and as he read each paragraph there was a slight discussion upon and explanation of it. Mr. Rose stated that the employing printers were one of the largest manufacturing interests in Toronto, and there were 1,100 union men engaged in the industry at wages from \$11 per week upward. This did not include non-union men, boys and females employed in the business, in which there was understood to be a million dollars of capital involved. The suggested tariff changes were as follows:

"Copyright.—We cannot but call attention to the continued decline in the printing and manufacture of books in this country, the business having largely been transferred to the United States through the operation of their Copyright Act, and such will continue to be the case until we have in operation a Copyright Act on the lines suggested and agreed upon between the British authors and the Canadian Copyright Associations. We, therefore, would urge immediate action in this matter.

"Plates of Books.—The admission of plates for books free has been a great advantage to the trade. It has increased the consumption of paper, and given extra employment to the pressman and bookbinder. We are strongly of the opinion had plates remained on the dutiable list, work we are now getting would not have come to Canada.

"Books.—We are of the opinion that a change could with advantage be made in the tariff on books, so as to promote the bookbinding industry, and would suggest that unbound books be continued at 6c. per pound, and the rate on bound books be increased from 6 to 8c. per pound, and that hymnal and prayer-books be taken from the free list and added to the dutiable; such changes will not affect the price to the consumer.

"Subscription Books, bound or in sheets.—This is a most important item to the trade. The United States copyright law affects the item, as under that law, if copyright is desired in the United States the type for the book must be set there. The effect of this is that all the subscription books used in Canada are now being imported (except those on local subjects), it being cheaper to pay the present duty of 6c. per lb. than to ship a duplicate set of plates, but with an increased duty on the book a large percentage of these books would be made here and the price to the public would not be affected, while employment would be given to paper-makers, printers and bookbinders. The present duty is 6c. per lb., and we would suggest that it be increased to 10c. per lb.

"Paper.—The duty on marble papers, coated and enamelled cover papers, fancy papers, crinkled tissue, together with card-board, also leatherette, skytogen, imitation cloth or leather, present duty 35 per cent.; all of these, we think, should be reduced to 25 per cent.

"Straw Board.—This article is not made in Canada suitable for bookbinders' purposes; a quality of this straw board is

manufactured here, which is used for the manufacture of egg cases, etc. The firms in the United States from which the largest portion of the bookbinders' supply is drawn have entered into a trust, so that there is practically only one place to buy at in America; and we understand that they hold patents that will prevent the Canadians manufacturing, even if the demand warranted it. Present duty, 30c. per 100 lbs., equal to 20 per cent. Suggested change, 10 per cent. The same as is now collected on mill board, which is used by bookbinders for the same purpose.

"Wire.—This article is not made in Canada suitable for bookbinders' purposes. The wire imported by the manufacturers of boots and shoes for use on their sewing-machines is free. Present duty, 25 per cent. We would ask that when imported for bookbinders' use, free.

"Duck, suitable for covering blank books, and very largely used, is not manufactured in Canada. The kind of duck or canvas now manufactured here for overalls, tents, awnings, etc., will not answer our purpose. Present duty, 30 per cent., and when imported for making hose, free. Suggested change, when imported for bookbinders' use, 10 per cent.

"Leather.—A very important item, which enters largely into the cost of producing a book, and especially those of a higher grade, should be placed on the same basis as the privilege now accorded the glove manufacturers. Present duty, 22½ per cent. Suggested change, 10 per cent.

"Type, present duty, 20 per cent.; galleys, present duty, 30 per cent.; cabinets, present duty, 35 per cent.; type stands present duty, 25 per cent.; type cases, present duty, 25 per cent.; brass rule, present duty, 30 per cent.; wood furniture, present duty 25 per cent.; metal furniture, present duty, 20 per cent., printers' patent blocks and quoins, present duty, 25 per cent. We would suggest a reduction on all these items to 10 per cent.

"Advertising pamphlets, etc., are now 6c. per lb. and 20 per cent. We would suggest a change to bring them into the same class as advertising matter, etc., viz., 15c. per lb., 25 per cent."

THE DISCUSSIONS.

After Mr. Rose had read over the copyright section, there was no remark. Apparently all were unanimous. As to admitting plates, Mr. Fielding asked where the compositor came in. He was assured that the compositors would not object. Mr. Murray stated that printing from plates meant work; in doing "Picturesque Canada" he had spent \$1,000 on the press work alone. This would have all been done in the States unless the plates had been admitted free. Mr. D. A. Rose said the electrotypes were satisfied without the duty.

On the demand that hymn books be made to pay duty, Mr. Fielding said guardedly: "That's a broad statement which might be argued or not." No one stopped to argue and Mr. Rose went on.

Upon the demand for reduction in the rates upon certain classes of paper, the Minister asked what the manufacturer would say.

Mr. Rose quoted the old Mackenzie tariff, to which they ap-