TARIFF ENQUIRY.

Flour Fifty Cents a Barrel Cheaper in Canada Than in U.S.,

Still, Hon. Mr Fielding Says, Nova Sectians Do Not Want to Use Ontario Flour.

Freight Rates to St. John for Export-Dry Goods Men Want Many Reforms

The tariff commission began a two days' sitting at London, Onk., on the

Manufacturens whose raw malterial is iron were the first to be received. The deputation was composed of John McClary and William A. Gunn of the McClary Manufacturing company; William Yates, London Tool company; Frank Noble, London foundry; T. A. Stevens, agricultural imple ments, brass foundry; Anthur W. White of the White engine works: W H. Wontman of the Wortman & Ward Manufacturing company; F. R. Shore, London Lock Wire Fence company and Chas: Leonard of E. Leonard &

Sons The first to address the commission was Mr. McClary. He described the depultation as one of manufactur ers, whose productions were varied, buit whose common naw material was fron. He stated the manufactures of the McClary company to be stoves, stamped ware, household utensils in granite, and hollow ware. Speaking of the industrial situation generally he said that there was no basis for investment in manufacturing plant unless the Canadian manufa could control their own market. Until the manufacturer in the development of his industry fully met the requirements of the home market his foreign competitor would divide it with him. If the tariff were so lowered as to let in foreign competition there would be no basis for the industry of the country, and it could not succeed. Home competition in this country and in the United States was perhaps the worst kind of competition. As industry was developed excessive capital was enticed into it. and over-production meant a struggle and the survival of the fittest, and much loss of capital in most lines. Confining himself to his own business, he said that on stamped household utensils the duty was 25 per cent. It cost about 15 per cent. to de-Biver the goods at Halifax and 25 per cent, to deliver them at the Pacific coast. These goods, through improved methods of production, had been reduced in price two-thirds from their cost fifteen years ago. Copperware had a protection of 30 per cent, and enamelled ware a protection of 35 per cent. On the production of the foundry, consisting chiefly of stoves, there was a protection of 27 1-2, or equivalent to 22 1-2 percent. if Ithley had free iron. There was stoves on account of the great varfety of patterns turned out by the makers than on the other lines mentioned, in which there were standard pattents. On hollow ware, he declared, the makers were insufficiently pro tedted. Mr. McClary endonsed what A. E. Kemp had said to the commission at Toronto in regard to enamelled ware. He said that the Germans formerly controlled this market, as they were extensive producers of this kind of ware. They had shipped their goods at prices so low that the purchasers could afford to pay the 30 per cent duty that formerly existed, ship them back to the country of production, pay a second duty of 45 per cent, and dispose of them. Since the three factories were started in Canada the prices had been reduced 33 1-3 per cent. The McClary complany employed 500 hands and in 1896 paid in wages \$200,000. In plant there was invested \$200,000, which was not producing a cent for the shareholders. The factory was run and the product distributed to the trade and consumers at cost. They could not distribute to the sharehold ers ordinary rates on the working capital. Reduction in the tariff on the lines the company produced, he said, could not be but disastrous to the bus-

Anthur White of the White machine works said there was a duty of 50 per cent. on over half the material that went into their engines. They preferred the increase of the duties on manufactured boiler and traction engines rather than to a decrease of those of raw materials

iness, unless fully offset by the reduc-

tions in raw materials. He said that

if the duty on pig iron were cut in

two the people would get their stoves

about 2 1-2 per cent, cheaper; if the

whole of the duty were taken off it

would make a difference in favor of

the consumer of 5 per cent.

Charles Leonard of Leonard & Sons manufacturers of stationary engines and boilers, thought the duty on boiler plates of 12 1-2 per cent. oughit ng with sheet iron, to be reduced The duity on the articles he manufactured was 27 1-2 per cent.

William Yates of the London Mach ine Tool company, and W. H. Wortmian of Wortman & Ward, mianuffe turers of woodwares, did not want any change made in the existing tariff. George W. Anderson, manufactures of brass goods, asked that the duty on valves and compression goods be

increased from 30 to 40 per cent. Thomas Bryan, brush manuflacturer advocated the retention of his raw material, bristles, hairs and fibres, or the free list and the 25 per cent, duty on the manufactured article. He said very large quantities of toilet brush were imported, so that it would appear that the 25 per cent. duty on this line was not sufficient to induce capitalists to venture into the manufacture of that line.

John Forresttal of the London & Petrolea Barrel company said he would not like to have the present tariff reduced. They did not suffer at all in Onitario and Quebec, but in Manitob and the Northwest the high freight prevented them holding their own. Mr. Forrestal compliained that Enghish ale hogsheads sent out to troops in the West Indies were returned empty to Canada and sold on the Halifax market at \$1.50 each, when they were worth \$4.25 and \$4.50.

James I. Anderson, D. A. McDermid and John Mills, represented the retail book dealers and stationery. J. I. Anderson was spokesman for the retail book trade. His objections to the present tariff were three in num-ber. The first and principal one was that the six cent rate would be suffictent. Secondly, he complained about allowing mechanics' institutes and free libraries to import books free of duty. He also complained that fashion plates and magazines, if subscribed for by individuals, were admitted free, but if ordered by booksellers in quan-

titles they had to pay the duty.

J. H. McMedhan of the London Soap company, and Fred Richards of Wood-stock represented the soap interests. Mr. McMechan said their raw mater ialls were free, except talllow, on which there was a duty of 1 cent a pound. There was also a 10 per cent. duty on perfumes and on packages, which he did not think exactly right. While there was a tariff of a cent a pound on laundry soap and 35 per cent. on toilet soap, the present treaty with France permitted undue competition from that source. Mr. McMechan also thought that the 20 per cent. on cotton seed oil should be reduced. He thought tollet soaps should be put at

5 cents a pound and 10 per cent. A. Keenleyside & Company, manufacturers of dard oil, said his raw naterial was admitted free, but he objected to the duty of 8 cents on the barrells. He also favored a higher tariff on the manufactured article.

George Burns of Burns & Lewis, exhibited a sample of blue serge which cost 22 cents in England. To this was added a duity of 5 cents a pound and a further duty of 25 per cent., making a total duty of 50 per cent. The same class of goods made in Montreal sold at 40 cents a pound, and the factory had not paid a dividend for ten years. Mr. Burns thought the duty of 5 cents a pound should be stricken

DRY GOODS MEN.

Mayor G. W. Little and Messrs. T. F. Kingsmill and John Green, dry goods men, aired their grievances. The specific dutties, said Mr. Kingsmill, were found to be a great hardship in dry goods generally, and should be done away with. In the matter of classification there were too many groups. Cotton goods should be classified as Lancashire goods, and woollen textiles as Yorkshire goods. Haberdashery should be ranged under one thead. On all Landashire goods the duity should be a straight 20 per cent. The market for prints in Canada was so limited that the manufacture of such goods could be conducted successfully in Canada. It was different in England, where the variety of patterns was infinite, and where they manufactured for the whole world. Hosiery, gloves and millinery goods should be in a class by themse So should carpets. Any industry which could not exist under freight and packing charges and 20 per cenit. protection the country was better without Twenty per cent. protection was quite enough for union carpets. At present it was nearly 40 per cent. The duty on consets of 32 1-2 per cent. was too high. The same with the 35 per cent.

Mayor Little endorsed the statement that the dry goods trade favored the abolition of specific duties and better classification. He complained of the customs rulings, and produced a sample of print intended for an apron. This paid 20 per cent. duty, but the braid on it was held to be embroidery. and a duty of 30 per cent. exacted. The tariff should be so framed that everybody could understand it. Whenever a dispute arose with the local anpraiser, and a reference was had to Ottawa, the officers took the extreme view and always exacted the highest duty. They seemed to regard the importers as a lot of out-throats. The ministers took a more sensible view when appealed to. Appraisers should be instructed to interpret the spirit and not the extreme letter of the law.

Hon. Mr. Paterson thought there might be another side to the case There must be some explanation for the present form of the tariff, and he ised to see what could be done at a combined meeting of the appraisers. Mr. Green condemned specific duties and wanted the lower rate of duty collected in the matter of flowers, feathers and bonnets. They were held to be luxuries, but were used by rich and

GRAIN, MEAL AND SEED.

The grain, meal, and seed interests were represented by J. S. Pearce, John Hunt, John Tanton, and A. M. Hamilton. A series of resolutions passed at a recent meeting embodying the following requests was read: That no change be made in the duty on flour. wheat and oatmeal; that there be a limit of time on all grain imported for milling in bond; that whenever a change in the duty on wool is made by the McKinley government the same be made by the Canadian government; that a duty should be imposed on corn, buckwheat, oats, peas, barley, rye and other coarse grains, whether for seed, feed or manufacturing purposes. Corn for ensilage purposes is admitted free, and to this exception was taken. Ali grains should either be made free or pay duty. Finally, it was desired that the duty on timothy, and on all kinds of millet and Hungarian grasses remain as at present, and that the duty on packages of these goods

be the same as on the contents. John Hunt gave expression to the views of the millers, and stated that flour was 50 cents a barrel cheaper in Canada than in the United States. The removal of the duty on flour would lead to the mills in the United States, with their tremendous output ng out the small Canadian mills. Free flour would involve free wheat and the Canadian mills could not hope then to survive American competition. As showing the difficulties the miller had to meet, he mentioned that th Canadian Pacific railway rate on grain from Manitoba to St. John, N. B., for export was 30 cents a hundred weight while from Manitoba to London, Ont.

t was 47 cents. FAVORS RECIPROCITY. A deputation from St. Thomas, condisting of John Campbell, miller: John Still, manufacturer of wooden handles: and J. B. Morford, superintendent of the Canadian Southern division of the

Michigan Central railway, was present. Mr. Campbell led off. He did not agree with the views expressed by the millers. He believed the milling interest could stand reciprocity with the United States, and he instanced the fact that he had sent 10,000 barrels of flour between September and December last year to Newfoundland in competition with the United States millers. The case in regard to discrimination in freight rates had not been made sufficlently strong, because, while the rate to Carleton, N. B., for export was 30 London and St. Thomas 47 cents a hundred, the rate from St. Thomas to Carleton was 171-2 cents additional. That was going to kill the Ontario trade.

DUTY ON COAL Superintendent Morford asked that bitumirous coal be placed on the free list. At present it pays a duty of 60 cenits a ton. The Michigan Central railway, in operation on 450 miles in Canada, consumed 145,000 tons of bituminous coal in 1895, costing in the neighborhood of \$180,000 for duties. It was a competing line with the rail ways upon the other side, but had to haul the same kind of freight, and make the same rate of speed as they did. In face of the enormous amount the company had to pay for bituminous coal it could be easily imagined that it could not show the same earnings as roads in the United States. It had to be as economical as possible in the management of the line, and was compelled to cut down the staff to the smallest possible limit. If free coal could not be granted a reduction to 30 or 35 cents would be very acceptable. If they were compelled to use Nova Scotia coal the cost would greatly ex-

ceed that of anthracite. Hon. Mr. Fielding said that was one of the inconveniences of the national policy. Nova Scotians did not want to use Ontario flour, but they had to

The sitting of the tariff commission at London, Ont., came to a close at 2 p. m. on Saturday, 5th inst.

The druggists of London and western Ontario were represented by W. E. Saunders, L. T. Lawrence, James Mattinson of London and E. G. Swift of Walkerville. Mr. Mattinson presented a statement of grievances. He complained of the burden imposed upon druggists by the excise regulations in respect to ethal alcohol used in the preparation of fluid extracts Though a reduction in the heavy in land revenue tax would be appreciated, they were more anxious to secure a reduction of the import duty. which amounted to 259 per cent. The net cost of spirits used by druggists is \$3.95 a gallon. Alcohol in bond could be bought in the United States for from 25 to 35 cents a gallon, whereas in Canada it costs in bond \$1.15.

The great difference in the price of spirits puzzled the commissioners. Sir Richard Cartwright suggested that the deputation try to discover the cause and report to the government the result of their enquiry. The suggestion was accepted.

Mr. Mattinson gave it as his opinion that the extra price here went to the Canadian manufacturer as profit. He asked that distillers be given a customs protection of 20 per cent., leaving the excise tax as at present, \$1.17 per gallon. This would not affect the revenue. He also asked the abolition of the present regulation requiring alcohol to be kept in bond two years before being used. As far as its use in drugs was concerned such a practice was unnecessary. It was not required in England. Atomizers should be under one heading to avoid confusion. Mr. Mattinson contended that the formulas of patent medicines imported should be furnished to the government to prevent fraudulent preparations being foisted upon the public. Mr. Mattinson held that the present duty of 50 per cent. on crude drugs should be maintained as it compelled Americans to make their

medicines in Canada HARDWARE.

Hardware was the next subject dealt with. It was brought to the attention of the commissioners by John Bowman of Bowman, Kennedy & Co., James Cowan & Co., James Reid of James Reid & Co., A. Westman, John Bland of James Wright & Co., and James Kerigan of the Hobbs Hardware Co. Mr. Bowman, the spokesman, complained of the confusion in the present tariff on hardware, ranging as it did from 20 to 35 per cent. For instance, the duty on mechanics' tools was 35 per cent., on builders' hardware 32 1-2 per cent., on tapes 25 per cent., on picks 35 per cent., on sledges and crowbars 30 perc ent., and on hatchets and axes 35 per cent. All these should be classified under general hardware. Cutlery ran from 25 to 35 per cent. For instance, a good steel paid 35 per cent., knife and fork 321-2 per cent., and the case 30 per cent. ad valorem and 5 cents specific

Their other suggestions were as follows: The specific duty on tacks should be removed; cordage should be at an ad valorem rate; cotton twines now taxed 15 per cent., but free to fishermen, should be all placed at a common rate, so as to prevent fraud: building felt paper now under three items in the tariff should be under one; spades and shovels now paying 25 per cent, and 60 cents per dozen should be under an ad valorem rate; wire goods should be in one group and wire in one class: the duty on clothes wringers should be wholly ad

Mr. Kerrigan complained that at present cotton twines pay a duty of 15 per cent., but if imported for fishery purposes they are free. The complaint is that twine is brought in free that is not sold for fishery purposes but goes into general trade. It was suggested that all twine come in free or that a uniform duty be imposed. Mr. Kerrigan asked that all manufactures of wire be classified as such with a common ad valorem duty. Mr. Kerrigan informed the ministers that imported goods are delivered f.o.b. in London, Ont. The freight allowance is deducted from the invoice, but the customs house charges duty on the deduction. He claimed that the face amount of the invoice should be accepted. Mr. Kerrigan and Mr. Bowman denied the statement that United States manufacturers quote lower

that it might be so in regard to pro- at least \$10,000,000 have been invested ducts subject to a combine.

in the industry, which is the life and soul of Petrolea, and that the output cent, and put together in this country. The duty on buggies is specific and ad valorem. Iron pipe from inch and a quarter to two inches in size, for oil and artesian wells, comes in at a specific rate. Mr. Bland stated than there was nothing to prevent a dealcents, and the rate from Winnipeg to er selling this pipe for other purposes.

> WHAT THE M. D.'s WANTED. The medical profession was represented by Dr. Meek, Dr. O. T. Campbell, Dr. English and Dr. Gardner. Dr. Meek asked that surgical instruments be placed on the free list.

In reply to Sir Richard Cartwright. he said the average cost of a mixed practitioner's outfit was \$200, but the better sets would run as high as \$500 A specialist's outfit ran from \$700 to

Hon. Mr. Fielding stated that 15 per cent. did not seem extremely high on such costly instruments. Dr. Meek said it was heavy, because surgeons had to import new instru-

ments very frequently. Dr. Gardiner submitted that bacterological products, such as antitoxine, tuberculine and Pasteur's injections should be put on the free list, so that they could be secured from the customs without impediment. Surgical books should be duty free to all, and not merely to schools and universities. or, at least, the duty should be equal to all

Dr. Campbell complained of the high duty on such sanitary appliances as sewer pipes, claiming that the best of these goods were imported at a duty of 35 per cent. Good sewers were a matter very closely connected with the public health.

He also asked that homeopathic medicines be made free. Mr. Fielding was of the opinion that to put homeopathic medicines in a special class would cause jealousy on the part of the allopaths. Dr. Campbell said he thought not.

in view of the increased cost of their medicines

WATCHES AND COCOANUTS. jeweller, spoke for a variety of interests. He complained of the high duty. 35 per cent., on watch cases. He wanted free trade, and if that could Sarnia Observer. The visitors receivnot be brought about just now let the ed a hearty greeting from several duties be lowered as much as possible. Again, if diamonds are to be free, why should colored stones, rubles, garnets; conclusion, he asked that a public assayer's office be established in Canada. Robt. Reid, jr., representing the Canada Featherbone Company, said one of the objections they have against the tariff as it stands is that "large smaller one like ourselves are not."

W. G. Coles, manufacturer of prepared cocoanut, asked for lower duty on been laid from Lake Huron, some few his raw material. It now is one-half a miles distant, to the town, water works cent per nut if imported direct from have been constructed, and within a place of growth, and 1 cent if imported indirectly. On the manufactured cocoanut the duty is 5 cents per pound. He wished that changed to 10 per cent. ad valorem.

THE CARRIAGE TRADE. John Campbell, a pronounced free trader and believer in direct taxation, complained of the high rate of duty on steel and iron. Mr. Campbell read over a list of articles used in the manufacture of carriages to show the amounts he was paying on his raw material. Among the items were axles and springs, one cent a pound and 20 per cent.; carriage hardware, 32 1-2 per cent.; rolled steel forgings, 35 per cent.; varnishes and japan, 20 cents a gallon and 20 per cent., equal to 40 per ent.; carriage lamps, 30 per cent.; tire bolts, one cent a pound and 20 per cent., equal to 40 per cent. Mr. Campbell besought the government to give him cheaper raw materials. He was accompanied by W. J. Thompson, representing W. J. Thompson & Son.

"I believe in protection," Mr. Thompson said, but I think there is too much protection on steel and iron. I do not believe in protecting one man and making the balance of the country suffer for it. Ten dollars a ton on steel is too much. Ten dollars a ton on iron is half the price of that iron. If a manufacturer says that he cannot pay dividends out of the protection allowed him, let him get out and make room for somebody else. Those in the carriage business have to make their way the best they can. I am not a free trader, but I believe in equal rights.' Pepper & Co., spring manufacturers,

of Guelph, asked for lower duty on their raw material. The London Furniture Company were satisfied with the present rate of duty. The wholesale grocers spoke through Moses Mansuret, and asked for lower duty on refined sugar. The molasses test was a nuisance and should be abolished. The grocers favored a lower duty on rice, pickles, sauces, raw

and jellies. They favored a duty on tea in order that trashy grades be kept out of Canada. A small revenue duty might also be imposed on coffee. Speaking of Canadian-made toilet soap, Mr. Mansuret classed it as miserable trash that he

J. R. Shuttleworth, dealer in dried

fruit, advocated a change from specific

would not use.

fruits, dried fruits, toflet soaps, jams

duties on green fruits to ad valorem duties. He pointed out that the present specific rates amounted to as much as 100 per cent. John Marshall & Co., hat and cap manufacturers, were represented by S Munro. He asked for a reduction of the duty of 25 per cent. and five cents per bound, equal to 45 per cent., on Astrachan cloth, and of the duty of

20 per cent. on sealette.

(Cor. Mail and Empire.) London, Ont., Dec. 7.-Two of the tariff commissioners-Messrs Fielding and Paterson-spent this afternoon amongst the oil wells of Petrolea The object was a valuable one, and the visiting ministers were able gain some idea during their short stay prices to Canadian customers than to of the magnitude and importance of American customers, but admitted the oil industry. It is estimated that

in the industry, which is the life and hardware, complained that parts of reaches a total of 800,000 barrels of buggles were brought in at 321-2 per crude oil per annum. There are 8,000 wells in the district and 600 individual owners of wells. In the production of oil 633 men are employed, at wage averaging \$1.50 per day. There are a far greater number employed in refining, to say nothing of those to whom the manufacture of the bye products give employment. In fact, it is safe to say that evrybody in Petrolea has a greater or less interest in the industry. The protection which coal oil enjoys is a specific duty am-

ounting to three cents a gallon.

In Petrolea people are at a loss to account for the prejudice which seems to exist against Canadian oil in the large consuming centres of this country. They say that while there may have been a time when the Canadian article was inferior to the American oil, improvements in methods of refining have brought about a great change, and that the local product is now quite up to, even if it is not superior to, the American standard. The statement is heard that it is a common practice for the retail dealer to sell good Canadian oil to his customers as American oil without taking steps to combat the existing prejudice, and that in many cases the customer in burning an oil which gives great satisfaction, believes he is using the American article, whereas the reverse is the case. If, as is positively asserted in the oil region, Canadian oil is equally as good as its American competitor, and there does not appear to be any sufficient reason why it should not be, it is a pity that energetic steps are not taken to demonstrate the fact to the Canadian people, and so induce a larger consumption of the native

product. The arrangement that Messrs. Fielding and Paterson should travel by the ordinary train to Petrolea miscarried. and accordingly a special, which left London at 11.45, was hired for their convenience. Accompanything them were: Messrs. John Fraser, M. P. for East Lambton, who came down to London to meet the tariff commissioners; Wm. McGregor, M. P. for North Essex; T. Hobbs, M. P. P.; Chas. Hy-F. C. Trebilcock, manufacturing man and Moses Masuret. At Wyoming the party was joined by Jas. Lister, M. P. for West Lambton; Charles Mackenzie, H. Gorman, editor of the leading representatives of the oil interest.

After luncheon the party sallied out etc., be taxed 10 per cent.? He also to visit the oil wells, carriages having wished mining machinery free. In been provided for the purpose. There is no need to tell the visitor to Petrolea that he is in the centre of a great oil region. The atmosphere is heavily laden with the aroma of oil. and he inhales it with every sniff of air. The mud of the streets and roads manufacturers are protected, and is impregnated with it, and in the ditches on either hand the water has The tax on the finished product is a thick oily scum. Drinking water is 32 1-2 per cent. "What we want," said at a premium in Petrolea. The local Mr. Reid, "is the duty lowered on raw supply is not potable, and the precious material, and at the same time on the fluid has to be imported and retailed. This state of things will not, however. continue much longer. A conduit has fortnight at least the inhabitants will be in the enjoyment of a bounteous supply of pure water. The cost will be in the neighborhood of \$200,000, but although tardily undertaken, it will be a profitable investment. The town is surrounded on all sides by a forest of tripod derricks, each marking the site of a well. The derricks are every where, and it woo d seem as though every householder outside the town had one either in front or back of his lot. From the wells the oil is pumped into tanks, and thence carried to receivers, to be subsequently pumped into the refineries.

The ministerial party first drove out through the oil fields and obtained an idea of their extensive area. A pause was made at the Ontario Oil and Land Company's property, where, under the guidance of Charles Jenkins, the interesting spectacle of drilling a well was witnessed. A visit was then made to the works of J. L. Englehart, where the first object of inspection was the pumping rig. The plant is perhaps the finest in the whole district and furnishes power for 200 wells. The process of pumping crude oil from the earth was next illustrated, and as the black fluid gushed into the recptacle many of the spectators acknowledged they saw crude oil for the first time. The most interesting operation, however, was the shooting of an oil well. charge of nitro-glycerine was exploded, and with a loud roar a great column of gravel, oil and water flew into

the air. On the works of the Imperial Oil company the visitors saw the treatment of oil in all its stages, as well as the manufacture of the by-products. In succession were visited the distillery, the condenser, the agitator, the bleacher, the cooperage and the tin works. The crude oil is first sent to the distillery for distillation, after which the product finds its way to the condenser. From thence it goes to the agitator, where it is treated with chemicals, in order to extract impurities, and it is subsequently forwarded to the lleaching department, where it is exposed for some time before being placed in barrels for shipment. All these processes were thoroughly explained to the visitors, and they were also shown the central pumping station and boiler rooms.

The manufacture of wax and of can dles was a spectacle of deep interest. Altogether the tour was one of great and absorbing attraction, and placed before the party in the clearest and strongest light the magnitude and farreaching character of Petrolea's chief industry.

Of course during the afternoon the

oil magnates lost no opportunity of imressing upon the commissioners the need for continuing the protection which their product enjoys, and it was but natural that as the representations came from liberals as well as conservatives an attentive ear should be inclined to all that was said. Amongs the local men who acted as guides to the ministers were J. L. Englehart. Charles Jenkins, E. A. Archer, James Peat, president of the Petrolea Reform association; J. J. Bell, J. H. Fairbank, and Dr. Fairbank. George Moncrieff, the late member for East Lambton, also showed that he has a watch-

To the Electors of the Province:

The season for Black Dress Suits and White Ties is at hand. You can see a fine assortment of them at the Depot Clothing Store, 48 Mill Street. Black Dress Suits, \$12.00 with a box of

Collars, Cuffs and Ties-latest,

White Ties thrown in. Blue Tweed, \$6.25, with Braces in the pocket. Blue Serge Suit, \$3.75. Good Pants for \$1.

W. J. YOUNGCLAUS.

ful eye upon the oil industry by his presence. The oil men did not youchsafe any oral evidence, but will interview the members of the government at some later period, when there will be ample time to har their statements.

A SOLITARY WITNESS. On returning to the hotel John Goodison of the Sarnia Tunnel City Thresher works was given an interview. He manufactures grain threshers, bean threshers, mowers, etc. His raw materials are iron, pig iron, and sheet steel. He complained of having to pay a higher price for these than did manufacturers on the other side. Last season Canadian bar iron cost him, laid down in Sarnia, \$1.80 to \$1.85 per 100 pounds, while in Port Huron the price was at \$1.20 to \$1.25. Rolled steel cost manufacturers on the other side \$2.20, and he had to pay \$2.45. For pig iron from the Hamilton Iron works, delivered in Sarnia, he had to pay \$19 per ton. The price, delivered in Port Huron, was \$13 per ton. Mr. Fielding-Hamilton gives you the American price with the duty add-

Mr. Goodison-Exactly.

The witness complained that American bean threshers had been admitted in pleces at a low rate of duty, the only labor requiring to be done afterwards being to put them together and paint them. His contention was that they were finished articles and should not come in at a low rate of duty, Another complaint made by Mr. Goodison was that mowers were admitted at a lower value than the selling price in the United States.

Mr. Lister, who acted the part of counsel for the witness. asked: "Are you able, on account of the duty, to manufacture as cheaply as the Americans?"

Mr. Goodison-I cannot. If I had as low raw materials I could manufacture as cheaply as they can. If I had the same privileges as they enjoy across the river, I could do business in the state of Michigan.

The witness asked for free iron. whereupon Mr. Fielding raised the point that the people down east wanted free coal oil. Up in the west free iron was wanted. What was the difference? Each was looking out for number one, and the commissioners

had to sit in judgment upon the two. Mr. Goodison then spoke upon the subject of freight rates. For the first 40 miles from Sarnia in carload lots the rate was 9 cents per hundred, Port Huron it was only cents for the first 60 miles, or 2 cents less. The Americans could ship at a cheaper rate for 60 miles than the Canadians could for 40 miles.

Mr. Fielding said such a difference in

rates would exist anywhere. Was that a matter they could govern by the tariff? Mr. Lister stated that Port Huron

was a competing point, and the railways would ship cheaper from there than from a non-competing point. (Toronto Globe Report.) When Mr. Goodison suggested free

iron, Mr. Fielding asked him if he believed in free oil. He was not prepared to admit that he did. "I only asked the question," said Mr. Fielding, "because down in Nova Scotia where they have iron and up here where you have oil there must be some give and take in this business.' "You people down there," remarked

Mr. Lister, "want free oil and not free "Yes," replied Mr. Fielding, "and you people up here want free iron and not free oil.' The ministers left for London tonight.

BOUND FOR ENGLAND.

The Furness steamer Durham City is detained at Hamburg on account of the strike, and it is not known when she will be able to get here. The Head line steamer Bengore Head sailed from Androssin for this port at six o'clock on the 8th instant. She is sure of a full cargo on the return voyage. It will consist of 40,000 bushels of heavy grain, and large quantities of peas, meal, lard, rock elm lumber, maple octagons and deals. The Donaldson steamer Concordia sailed at an early hour on the 9th inst. for Glasgow with a full cargo. It was made up about as follows: 25,000 bushels of peas, 150 tons of flour and oatmeal, 3,600 barrels of Ontario apples, 1,500 boxes of cheese, 500 tubs of butter, 3 carloads of meats, 150 loads of birch timber, 270 standards of birch and spruce deals, and a lot of general stuff. She also took 303 head of cattle, 144 sheep and 17 horses. The live stock was taken in at the C. P. R. wharf, where a "drop" was put in during the summer. This facilitated in a great degree the handling of the

animals. The Beaver line steamer Lake Huron, Capt. Carey, sailed for Liverpool early on the 9th inst. She was full up to the decks with cargo, in fact she could not accommodate all that was sent here for shipment by her. Her cargo comprised among other things 6,250 sacks of flour, 450 tons of birch timber, 125 standards of deals, 1,000 barrels of Ontario and 600 barrels of Nova Scotia apples, 2,000 boxes of cheese, 25 carloads of meats, 500 cases of poultry, 150 tubs of but ter, 600 sacks of oatmeal, 510 bundles of hooks, 670 bundles of staves, 283 sacks of barley, 1,500 cases of eggs, 800 sacks of beans, 21 cases of organs, 2.000 pails of lard and a lot of local stuff. To this must be added 475 head of cattle. The Huron had three cabin passengers, Mr. and Mrs. F. Adams and Sister Constance. She had also fourteen steerage and tweive second

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