

THE TARIFF COMMISSION.

An Important Session Held Here on Thursday Afternoon.

MR. WILLIAM LEMONT COMPLAINS OF CROCKERY-WARE REGULATIONS.

Manager of Hartt Shoe Company Asks for More Protection.

COUN. C. N. GOODSPEED OF PENNIAC, URGES INCREASED DUTY ON POTATOES.

The tariff commission composed of Hon. Messrs. Fielding, Paterson and Brodeur held a session in the city council chamber Thursday afternoon and listen to suggestions for tariff changes from Mr. William Lemont, Mr. John A. Reid, Dr. J. R. Inch, Mr. Henry Chestnut, Mr. J. James S. Neill, and Mr. C. N. Goodspeed. There was a large attendance of spectators and the discussion was followed with great interest. The list of gentlemen present included the following: John J. Weddall, president of the Board of Trade; O. S. Crockett, M. P.; Alex. Gibson, Jr.; Marysville; Sheriff Sterling, A. E. Cliff, Kingsclear; George L. Pugh, Nashwaakiss; Coun. C. N. Goodspeed, Penniac; Dr. Weaver, Senator Thompson, H. E. Harrington, James S. Neill, John T. Jennings, William Lemont, Samuel H. McFarlane, J. D. Phinney, K.C.; W. L. McFarlane, Nashwaakiss; William McKay, R. B. Hanson, R. H. Scott, Canterbury; D. L. Mitchell, Ald. Edwards, Mayor McNally, Dr. Inch, Dr. Scott, Hubbard Niles, Jas. A. Bell, C. B. Morgan, J. W. McCready, Henry Chestnut, George S. Inch, J. D. McKay, R. H. Boone, Judge Gregory, and others.

MR. LEMONT'S GRIEVANCE.

Mr. William Lemont of Lemont & Sons Limited, furniture and crockeryware dealers, was the first person heard by the commissioners. He wanted a change in the tariff with respect to the importation of crockeryware and stated his case very frankly to the commission and seemed to make a favorable impression. Mr. Lemont pointed out that the existing tariff did not make any provision for a refund on an importation of crockeryware, in case of breakage, unless such breakage was in excess of twenty-five per cent of the importation. Mr. Lemont argued that the goods had to be brought across the Atlantic, and there was nearly always loss, but it did not usually reach the twenty-five per cent mark. If anything should happen to break the crockeryware, it will be just as liable to break the whole shipment as twenty-five per cent of it, and in that case the importer would have to make good the loss. The crockeryware dealers, he said, were long suffering and did not care to make a claim upon the government. It was the retail men who were most affected by the present regulation as the wholesale men could reship the goods without opening them. Mr. Lemont contended that the crockerymen had more difficulties to contend with than dealers in other lines of goods. The dry goods men, for instance were not troubled by breakages.

Hon. Mr. Fielding—Does not the consumer have to make good any loss from breakage?

Mr. Lemont—You have hit the mark. The loss has to be made up, but a good percentage of it comes out of the importer.

Hon. Mr. Paterson—Then you can get relief if half of your crockeryware is broken?

Mr. Lemont—If all is broken, we can get relief but not otherwise.

Hon. Mr. Fielding said the clause of the Customs Act complained of was an old one, and this was the first time the matter had been brought to the notice of the commission. It did seem rather hard for the Customs' authorities to collect a revenue from something of no value. Yet at the same time it was no harder for the government to collect the duty than it was for the consumer to pay for something he did not get. It was a question just where the line should be drawn.

Hon. Mr. Paterson—What do you think the rate should be? You are the first to bring this matter to our notice.

Mr. Lemont said that he had paid thousands of dollars in excessive duty and had never received any refund from the government.

Mr. Lemont also complained of the duty on crockery crates and claimed that they were of no value in an inland town, except as firewood.

Hon. Mr. Paterson pointed out that dry goods packages paid the full duty, while crockery men were let off with three-quarters of the value.

Mr. Lemont claimed that crockery crates should be free of duty.

Hon. Mr. Paterson suggested that the duty might be removed from crates and slightly increased on crockeryware.

Mr. Lemont did not think that such a plan would assist in building up a trade with England.

Mr. Paterson in reply, pointed out that all crockeryware used in Canada had to be imported from across the Atlantic. He went on to say that Parliament made the customs law and the department administered it.

Mr. Lemont—You do the suggesting. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Fielding promised Mr. Lemont that his recommendations would be carefully considered.

THE SHOE TRADE.

Mr. J. A. Reid, manager of the Hartt Boot & Shoe Company, was next heard by the commission. He asked for an increase on the duty on shoes manufactured in the United States. He pointed out that American shoes were extensively advertised in magazines circulated in Canada, and there was a demand for them in this country. Such extensive advertising on the part of American manufacturers made it rather difficult for Canadians to compete with them in the Canadian market. He claimed that the Canadian manufacturers now produced as good a shoe as did the Americans, but were not in such a good position to specialize them because of the smaller field. Mr. Reid read an article from the Shoe and Leather Journal in support of his contention. He went on to say that there were some eighty shoe factories now doing business in Canada with an output of about \$18,000,000. A factory here manufactures out from one to two thousand pairs daily is considered large, but many American factories have an output as high as thirty thousand pairs a day. Everything being equal, the public favored the American shoe. A certain style of shoe that can be made in the United States for \$2.80 costs \$3.50 to produce here because of the duty on the material entering into the same. This style of shoe is retailed here for \$5.

Hon. Mr. Fielding wanted to know if the demand for American shoes in Canada was not due to the fact that the manufacturers were more liberal users of printers' ink.

Mr. Reid contended that the Americans got the benefit of free advertising in Canada.

Hon. Mr. Fielding replied that the advertising had to be paid for on the basis of circulation.

Mr. Reid said the magazines containing the advertisements were admitted free of duty.

Mr. Fielding said that was another question and had nothing to do with the shoe trade.

In reply to Mr. Fielding Mr. Reid said that the Hartt shoe factory had been running six years and employed 150 hands.

Hon. Mr. Fielding said that it has been established that 19 out of every 20 pairs of shoes worn in Canada were made by our own factories. In no other line did the Canadians have such complete control of the trade.

Mr. Reid claimed that there was a great deal of smuggling in shoes along the Canadian border, and cited St. Stephen as an example. He said that people there walked over the line and returned wearing a new pair of shoes.

Mr. Reid went on to say that it was only the better class of American shoes that were used in Canada. He did not think that a farmer on entering a store would ask for an American shoe.

Mr. Reid quoted a magazine writer to show that in the town of Chatham, Ont., no American shoes were kept on sale, but nine per cent of the population wore that class of goods.

Hon. Mr. Paterson admitted that there was some smuggling carried on in shoes, but he did not think raising the duty would stop it. People would have greater reason to smuggle under a fifty per cent tariff on shoes than they would under a twenty-five per cent tariff, as at present.

Mr. Reid in reply to a question by Hon. Mr. Fielding admitted that Canadian patent leather was quite as good as the American article, except that the Americans specialized certain lines.

Hon. Mr. Fielding—I think you will have to make use of more printers' ink.

Mr. Reid—I understand that you were in that business once. (Laughter.)

Mr. Fielding—But I am wholly disinterested now.

Mr. Reid to reply to Mr. Reid, Brodeur, said that if the duty was increased on shoes in Canada the price in shoes would be lower. That was the case in the United States at any rate.

Hon. Mr. Paterson pointed out that small factories were able to do business in the United States in competition with the larger concerns.

Mr. Reid admitted that this was the case and thought it was because they could buy stock cheap and could sell their goods without travelling all over the country.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES.

Dr. J. R. Inch, chief superintendent

of education, was next heard. He said he was present to co-operate with the Ontario educational association in a demand for a reduction of duty on philosophical and scientific apparatus, when imported for educational or literary purposes, or for use in fine arts. It was also asked that there should be a more liberal interpretation in regard to books not published in Canada. The doctor trusted that the government would do everything possible to encourage educational work.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES.

Coun. C. N. Goodspeed, a Nashwaak farmer, asked for an increase in the duty on potatoes imported from the United States from 15 cents to 25 cents a bushel, the same as the American rate. He pointed out that potatoes were now being shipped from this province to Ontario, but had to face competition from the United States. He thought quite a profitable trade could be built up with a little more protection. He also would like to see the duty on pork imported from the United States remain as at present. He thought the farmers of New Brunswick could raise sufficient pork for the home market.

In reply to Hon. Mr. Brodeur, Mr. Goodspeed said that he did not think there was any pork exported from New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. Fielding pointed out that more potatoes were exported from Canada than were imported. The exports last year were \$392,000 and the imports \$228,000. The balance of trade was therefore in our favor.

Mr. Goodspeed said that the American market was overstocked with potatoes last year. The United States usually offered the best market.

Hon. Mr. Fielding wanted to know if Mr. Goodspeed would favor the adoption of the American tariff on manufactured articles, such as agricultural implements.

Mr. Goodspeed said he could hardly expect high duties on farm produce and low duty on agricultural implements. He was not present, he said, as the representative of the farmers' association, but was present on his own account.

THE CANOE INDUSTRY.

Mr. Henry Chestnut, of R. Chestnut & Sons, appeared, before the commission in his capacity as a manufacturer of woodwork and canvass canoes. He claimed that his firm were the only canvass canoe manufacturers of Canada. The duty on canoes from the United States was 25 per cent, but those going to the United States had to pay 35 per cent. All he wanted was that the duty be equalized.

Hon. Mr. Fielding—Only on canoes. (Laughter.)

In reply to Mr. Brodeur, Mr. Chestnut said that all the raw material for his firm's canoes was produced in Canada.

Hon. Mr. Fielding wanted to know if Mr. Chestnut would like the duty on canvass increased from 32 per cent to the American figure of 45 per cent.

Mr. Chestnut—I think not.

Hon. Mr. Fielding—That shows that it is hard to pick out a single item.

Mr. Chestnut said that the industry was a new one and they had many difficulties to contend with. At present they employed ten hands and paid out \$150 a week in wages. If the duty were equalized they might be able to sell canoes in the western states.

STEEL FOR PEEVIES.

Mr. James S. Neill, who was next called upon, asked for a reduction in the duty on steel and in the manufacture of cant dogs and peevies. Steel used in edge tools was now admitted free of duty and he thought the peevie manufacturer should be put on the same footing.

Mr. Neill said that there were three or four manufacturers in Canada, and they had to meet competition from Maine.

Hon. Mr. Fielding promised that the matter would receive careful consideration.

Mr. Neill was last on the list of those who had made application to be heard by the commission but Hon. Mr. Fielding said that the commission would be glad to hear from any gentlemen present.

There being no response to his invitation, Hon. Mr. Fielding said the commission would adjourn to meet in St. Stephen tomorrow. He thanked the Mayor for the use of the Council Chamber and the Board of Trade for their kindness in arranging for the meeting.

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and it cures the cold. That's what is necessary. It soothes the throat because it reduces the irritation; cures the cold because it drives out the inflammation; builds up the weakened tissues because it nourishes them back to their natural strength. That's how Scott's Emulsion deals with a sore throat, a cough, a cold, or bronchitis.

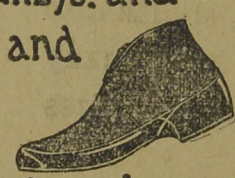
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GRANBY RUBBERS WEAR LIKE IRON

LIBERAL PARTY IS RICH IN HOSTESSES.

New Premier's Wife is an Invalid; Other Cabinet Members Have Society Hives.

London, Jan. 4.—An interesting feature of the new Liberal administration from a social point of view, will be the number of women occupying prominent positions who will be the hostesses of the political party, which has attained to power.

The Countess of Crewe who is the daughter of Lord Rosebery and the wife of an Earl of pronounced Liberal views, will be among two foremost of these hostesses and Crewe House is likely to become a head centre of official Liberalism.

Lady Campbell-Bannerman is unfortunately in such bad health that she is not likely to be able to give

any of the famous dinners for which the house of the Liberal Premier hitherto has been celebrated.

Mrs. Asquith, brilliant, clever, unconventional and erratic, will entertain in her house in Cavendish Sq., but her parties will never be exclusively political as she has too many friends of all shades of opinion.

Lady Carrington will be another woman who will hold sway and whose house will be the centre for political leaders.

And last and not least, Lady Aberdeen and her daughter, Lady Maudie Sinclair, will be among the leading women who will take an interest in public matters and Mrs. Herbert Gladstone, whose name is a political fortune, is a bright pretty woman, who will entertain her husband's supporters during the coming summer.

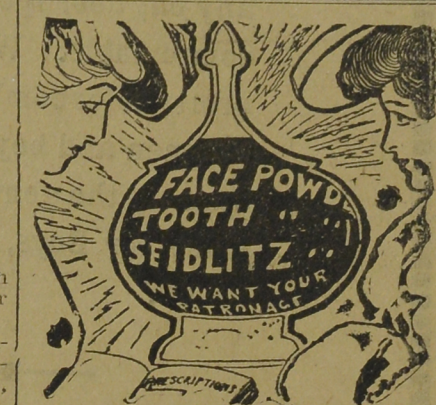
Mrs. "Lulu" Harcourt, the wife of

Sir William Vernon Harcourt's only son, is an American and a niece of J. Pierpont Morgan, and her parties are likely to be among the most magnificent in the political world.

Grayce—Edith tells me that George calls her "sugar." Gladys—Sugar? Grayce—Yes, his lump of sugar. Gladys—Should he see her at her toilet, he'd classify her as being of the powdered variety.

IS YOUR CATARRH ANY BETTER

Probably getting worse all the time. Why not give up that snuff and stop dosing your stomach? The one sure treatment is "Catarrh-zone," sure to cure because it goes where the disease really is. Certain to cure in your case because it has restored tens of thousands worse than you are. Catarrh-zone is a thorough cure because it destroys the causes as well as the effects of the disease. Relief is prompt, cure is quick with this powerful remedy, which is guaranteed to cure Catarrh in any part of the nose, throat, bronchial tubes or lungs.



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