

ernments. The result of these experiments was that a scale was adopted in England, which is supposed to represent in each quality the exact amount of saccharine or crystallisable matter which each class of sugar contains. The two great motives which influence the Government in dealing with the sugar duties are the interests of the revenue, and the interests of the consumer. Then between these two great interests are those of the importer and the refiner. These intermediate interests, more than any others, lead to the difficulties which the Government has to investigate. Under the present sugar duties the importation has been largely increased, with a corresponding increase to the revenue, which, however, the Government believe will be fully maintained by the proposals which I am about to mention. We have, as I have said, to consider the interests of the revenue and the consumer, between these arising a great subordinate interest, the encouragement of the direct trade with the West Indies. I need not recapitulate all the objections which have been urged to the present tariff. To do so would occupy the House far too long a period, and perhaps after all not be of much interest. We have had to undergo a course of sugar literature during the last three months which I have no desire to inflict on the House. (Hear, and laughter.) One of the great objections to the present tariff is the inequality of its operation. It is purely a specific rate of duty, graduated according to a certain scale, as near as possible to the English standard. But in England they have only a few ports at which sugar is received from abroad, and there is little difficulty with reference to the standard, so that the operation of specific duties there is comparatively easy. Here it is very different. Our investigation shows that at different ports in Canada there has been great difference of action as to how the different kinds of sugar are to be rated. Under Confederation there has been an increase of no less than 107 ports, there being 76 in Nova Scotia, and 31 in New Brunswick. If it were deemed advisable to adopt a system of specific duties, the number of ports at which sugar might be imported would have to be reduced, which would be a very unpopular measure. But apart from this objection to a system of specific duties in this country, there was the very important consideration in favour of *ad valorem* duties, of encouraging and stimulating direct foreign trade. These, Sir, were the reasons which induced the Government to adopt the principle which I have just now mentioned. They have also, on the adjustment of a scale of duties, had this further object in view, of creating a wholesome competition between those importing sugar direct, and those refining sugar in this country. The interests of the revenue and the interests of the consumer would both be promoted by the stimulus thus given to domestic industry. The Government have therefore come to the conclusion to recommend a mixed *ad valorem* and specific rate. Upon this subject we have had a great deal of good advice tendered to us. Some proposed 25 per cent *ad valorem*, and one cent specific, on all grades, which would be about 53 per cent on raw sugar and 37 on refined; others 20 per cent and 2 cents, which would equal 70 per cent on raw, and 46 on refined; and others proposed 15 per cent and 2 cents, or 65 per cent on raw, and 40 on refined. But after giving the whole subject very earnest