

The average price during those thirteen months was \$3.18 in London and \$3.96 in Montreal, a difference in favour of London of 78 cents per 100 pounds. So we find, although sugar can be refined in Montreal as cheaply as in London or anywhere else in the world, that the refiners take care to sell at the highest price which the tariff will permit them to extort.

On the 300,000,000 pounds consumed by our people, this difference of 78 cents per 100 pounds in price means that they paid \$2,340,000 more last year than was charged in England for the same quantity. While they were paying this excessive tax or tribute to the refiners, our public treasury received only \$23,000 in the form of duty collected on refined sugars. If we removed the duty, the English refiners could lay down sugar in Montreal, freight paid, for 60 cents per 100 pounds less than the average selling price there throughout the year. This would effect a saving on the 300,000,000 pounds of \$1,800,000 a year.

But Senator Ferguson says: "In order to have your consumer in a position to buy your products, you must give him work." The men employed by the refiners are the consumers of products. The wage sheet of the refiner is the measure of the benefit their employees may be to the food producers of this country. Now, the refiners employ 1,927 men altogether, and pay them \$709,811 a year in wages. This \$709,811 finds its way, according to Senator Ferguson, "to the butcher shop and every kind of establishment, and into the pockets of the farmers of this country," and in return the same butchers and farmers pay 2½ times that amount more for their sugar than they would have to pay if there were no sugar at all refined in the country.

But we are told that without protection the refiners would have to be shut down. I would be sorry if they were; but, as the consumers are forced to pay \$2.50 to the refiners in unearned profits for every dollar which the refiners pay in wages to their men, I may be pardoned if I even say, let the refineries go. If they shut down, many of the hands now employed would be required to handle the imported article. But would they shut down? As I have said, raw sugar can be laid down in Canada at the same price as in England. The half cent per pound of duty which is now on raw sugar would be also on refined. Then, the freight between London and Montreal would itself be a very large protection and ought to be sufficient to maintain this industry, even though the refiners have to pay higher wages than are paid in England. Whether they do or not I do not know. I do not think they do. But at the lowest rate the freight charges would amount to over half a million dollars a year on our present consumption, equal to over 75 per cent of the total amount of wages paid to the employees engaged in this industry,

which is surely an ample protection for even the most timid refiner.

Mr. SPROULE. Do you take that into account in your calculation of the value of sugar in Montreal as compared with London—the increased freight rates on the raw sugar?

Mr. DAWSON. I have said they are the same. What does my hon. friend say they are?

Mr. SPROULE. You have been giving it yourself, and it must be considerable.

Mr. DAWSON. I hope the hon. gentleman will profit by the information I am giving him. Now, this object lesson illustrates the position of the protected manufacturers generally. In every case they take for their products all that the law will allow, and if competition threatens they simply combine and kill competition. We know now, after several days' debate, that it is the intention of the Government to stick to protection; and I must say that they display a large amount of worldly wisdom in so doing though little regard for the welfare of the country. They are wise politicians in sticking to the policy which has carried them through so far. They are wise in keeping up the class legislation which has served them so well. By their class legislation they have made rich men richer, but they have robbed the poor. They have kept themselves in power by the lavish use of boodle contributed by the men whom they have helped, for the reptile fund is the largest element in bringing about their success at the polls, as is well known to them and to us, and to the people of this country, and, I am sorry to say, to those in the beloved motherland also. But I think that the day has gone when they will again succeed in bribing the people with their own money. The people know that the money which the protected manufacturers contribute to the election fund of the party in power is money which has been taken wrongfully from them, under cover of special legislation, enacted in behalf of those interests. They know that it is their money which has been paid into the fund to be spent in their own undoing.

And I think the day is gone by when they will be so easily deceived as to consent again to return to power the men who have ruined the great mass of the people of this country and built up only a small and a favoured class.

Before sitting down I wish to congratulate the Government on having at last accepted the advice of their opponents in this House. Year after year, members of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition have been pointing out to that Government how savings could be effected. They were laughed at for their pains. Game was made of the proposition of hon. gentlemen on this side by the subsidized press of