

SERIOUS LOSS.

HALF A MILLION DOLLARS LOSS OF REVENUE TO THE COUNTRY
FROM THE WANT OF EFFICIENT LAWS TO CONTROL
THE GROWTH OF HOME-GROWN TOBACCO.

In approaching this vexed question, it might be premised that, ever since the imposition of an Inland Revenue duty on tobacco, there has been a steady growth of the manufacture of illicit tobacco in the Province of Quebec, and the various augmentations of duty since imposed have but served to stimulate the illicit trade—thereby throwing the onus of taxation on the other Provinces, although, from the first inception of the law, there has always been a discrimination in favour of the Province of Quebec—the laws having been so framed that the styles of tobacco exclusively used there, *i. e.* leaf tobacco (tabac rolé and tabac en torquette*) have only had one-half the amount of tax imposed as upon other tobacco; but, in the face of this distinct favouritism, the law has become a dead letter from inherent vagueness.

As an example of the faultiness of the law, the census of 1871 shows that tobacco was grown in the Province of Quebec to the extent of nearly one million and a quarter of pounds, and for that year, as shown by the following statistics, there was only 55,000 pounds returned

* Tobacco rolled loosely and twist tobacco.