

Mr. Wood (Hamilton). Why go back so far as that?

Mr. Davin. Are they afraid of their utterances Mr. Speaker? This is a statement of a general truth that I am going to quote, and I ask the attention of my hon. friend from Hamilton to it:

"I say that it is our duty to stamp the mark of public reprobation, as I do, on men who have proved out of their own mouths thus false to the high trusts you committed to their hands."

Well, Mr. Speaker, is it necessary for me to quote the promises made by the Prime Minister to reduce the tariff to take the duty off coal; to take the duty off coal oil or to greatly reduce it; to relieve the agriculturists as regards implements? It is not necessary; they are well known; and to refer to them and point to this speech is to make the greatest possible condemnation of the Prime Minister and his colleagues. But, Sir, I am not going to content myself with that. I will not go so far back as 1878. I have something very interesting here. If you examine, as I have lately done, the tariff as it was in 1881, you will find that within a fraction it is very much the same as the tariff of to-day. The tariff of to-day, in regard to many things a poor man buys, is higher than that of 1881. Now, I ask your attention to this language, referring to the tariff of 1881:

"The N. P. imposed a rate of duties that largely increases the cost of sugar, that increases the cost of stoves and hardware, that increases the cost of ploughs and all agricultural implements, that makes cottons and woollens dearer than would have been the case under the previous tariff, and that benefits a few individuals at the expense of the masses. To show, for instances, how the Canadian farmer is made to pay for his 'whistle' by the present tariff,—"

This is as true of this tariff as of the tariff of which it was written:

"—we may adopt an illustration of a day's work and life on a farm,

"which cannot be questioned. On the ground of accuracy. The farmer starting to his work has a shoe put on his horse with nails taxed 41 per cent, with a hammer taxed 40 per cent, cuts a stick with a knife taxed 27 1-2 per cent, hitches his horse to a plough taxed 30 per cent, with chains taxed 27 1-2 per cent. He returns to his home at night and lays his weary limbs on a sheet taxed 30 per cent, and covers himself with a blanket that has paid 70 per cent. He rises in the morning, puts on his humble flannel shirt taxed 60 per cent, shoes taxed 30 per cent, hat taxed 30 per cent, reads a chapter from his Bible taxed 7 per cent.—" I believe that tax is now off. I remember that it was said of a lawyer who used to drive a very hard bill, that before he sat down to write it he said his prayers.

"—and kneels to his God on a cheap carpet taxed 30 per cent. He sits down to breakfast: eats from a plate taxed 40 per cent, with knife and fork taxed 30 per cent, drinks his cup of coffee or tea sweetened with sugar taxed 45 per cent, seasons his food with salt taxed 35 per cent, pepper 35 per cent, or spice 35 per cent. He looks around upon his wife and children, all taxed in the same way—"

Now, mark this, and I call the attention of the First Minister to it—

"—takes a chew of tobacco taxed 100 per cent—"

Well, tobacco is higher now; I suppose it is taxed 125 per cent.

"—and if he indulges in a cigar he has first to pay a tax of 120 per cent, and then he is expected to thank John A. that he lives under the freest Government under heaven."

What we would write down now is that he is expected to thank Sir Wilfrid Laurier that he lives under a Government that keeps everyone of its pledges.

Now, as bearing on that topic, let me show you this illustration, and I may tell you that it is one which has created some feeling throughout

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