

Hon. Mr. Tilley said that packages would be rated at the gauged quantity at the port of entry.

Mr. A. G. Jones thought it right to give fair play and no more to all interests; still he had to say that the Government had adopted an extraordinary mode of arriving at the desired result which he thought was very one-sided. After all the results at the ports of Halifax and Saint John since the late tariff came into operation, there had been such as to excite universal disapproval, it being felt by all in the trade there and by the people generally that they were being unjustly dealt with for the benefit of the refining interest in Montreal; and the new tariff was no better but actually worse, as he believed, notwithstanding the flourish of trumpets about developing the West Indies trade with which it had been introduced. He knew that it would very much strengthen his position were he able to lay before the House the opinion of the mercantile community in Saint John and in Halifax, and the whole of the facts and figures which went to sustain that opinion. He was able, however to cite what would not be denied, and the force of which would be evident to the House. The Board of Trade, had recommended a specific duty of one cent per lb, and 20 per cent *ad valorem*. He wished to draw attention to the fact that the merchants of Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, London, and the other principal cities and towns, had all given the same recommendation which, therefore, embodied the opinion of the entire mercantile interest, both east and west. This was important, and ought to have some weight with the Government, which it seemed it had not had after all. He disputed the correctness of the data from which the Minister of Customs, also the Minister of Excise, had deduced the figures representing the duties payable by the various grades under the new scale. The speaker here proceeded to give the figures for each grade, from one to six, under the new scale, which differed considerably from those given by Mr. Howland. He made the assertion in all sincerity that he, as an importer of West India sugar, would greatly prefer the old tariff to the new one. He had nothing to say against the Canadian refiners, who were honest, worthy and enterprising men. He did hold, however, that the opinion of the whole mercantile community, from east to west, which had been disregarded by the Government, ought to have received proper considerations. The reduction on the specific rate of one cent

to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cent on the low grades, was a heavy concession to the refiners. There was another aspect of the question which he wished to present, and a most important one it was. The Finance Minister had said that he aimed at the development of a large direct trade with the West India Islands, but he (the speaker) foresaw that one of the first effects of the new scale, with its low figures, on the coarsest brown sugar and melado, would be to favour importation of the lowest grades from Manilla and the East thus diminishing the West India trade. The new scale was calculated to lessen the inducement to supply ourselves from the West Indies, and thus certainly to contract our trade with the Islands instead of increasing it, then who, he would ask, was to determine at every port whether a particular lot of sugar were not equal to number nine Dutch standard? This he ventured to say it would be found impossible to do correctly. He would go back to his argument, that it was not for the interest of the Dominion to perpetrate any monopoly which made the people pay high prices. He moved in amendment that the proposed duty on grades of sugar at and above No. 9 Dutch standard, be reduced to 75 cents per hundred pounds and 25 per cent *ad valorem*, being the same as for grades below that standard.

Hon. Mr. Rose said the Government could not acquiesce in the honourable gentleman's proposition. He said the Government should have followed the recommendations of the Board of Trade; but all the Boards of Trade were not of the same way of thinking. The recommendations from the Boards were very diverse in their character, and the Government being responsible for the revenue, and being bound to protect the consuming interest, did not feel required to follow absolutely the recommendations of the merchants whose own interest was to make a profit on their importations. If the Government had fixed the duty at 15 per cent and one cent a pound, there would have been a great deficiency in the revenue. His honourable friend said he would have preferred the old tariff to the present one. The honourable gentleman there let the cat out of the bag for he had been running his \$2.60 sugar in at \$2.25. His honourable friend said the effect of this tariff would be to prevent the refiner getting his supplies from the West Indies, and force him to get them from Manilla and the East Indies. If this was correct, this extension of our trade would be a decided advantage.