

DRY GOODS TARIFF CHANGES.

REMARKS OF THE FINANCE MINISTER IN ANNOUNCING THE PROPOSED ALTERATIONS IN DUTY.

ON Tuesday, May 25th, Hon. Mr. Fielding, in announcing the tariff changes, dealt as follows with those referring to the dry goods trade: "Worsted yarns and worsted tops are dealt with in items 375, 376 and 377. We have had some difficulty over these owing to the conflicting interests of the various woolen mills. There are a few woolen mills in Canada which make worsted yarns, and there are a considerable number which do not make them but which use them in the manufacture of cloth. In the resolutions brought down the item fixed the duty at 15 per cent. on worsted yarns costing 20c. per pound and under. This does not express what we had in mind. Instead of under it should read over."

Mr. Foster—"That was a clerical error."

The Minister of Finance—"We have a few clerical errors, but we have also a few which we confess; we do not want to blame the clerks for it all. Like other human beings we have made a few mistakes and we have the good sense to come here and make them right."

Mr. Henderson—"Some of them are very pleasant."

The Minister of Finance—"I am glad that some of them are pleasant. Next to pleasing our friends on this side, we like to please our friends over the way. Worsted yarns costing 30c. per pound and upwards will be dutiable at 20 per cent. That is an encouragement to the woolen mills which do not spin these yarns. A reduction to 15 per cent., we think, would be perhaps a pretty severe reduction to those who are making these yarns. The amount decided upon will, we think, give them a chance to continue the spinning and not make the yarns too expensive for the large number of mills that want to use them in order to make a

better quality of cloth. Worsted tops, we propose, shall be dutiable at 15 per cent. when made from wools of a similar character to those grown in Canada; when made from other wools they shall be on the free list. This item has given us considerable trouble, owing to the conflicting interests of the different branches of the woolen trade. I do not suppose we can compliment ourselves on making it wholly satisfactory, but I hope it will be reasonably so to the different interests.

"I have said that we have endeavored to make a number of things cheaper to the manufacturers rather than to increase the duties on the finished product, giving them cheaper raw materials. In conformity with that view we have provided that the cloths used for the making of umbrellas, parasols, neckties, and so forth, and to be cut into shape for such purposes in bond, shall be dutiable at 20 per cent. We make a similar proposal in regard to the shirt trade. We propose that cotton fabrics, fronting linens, interlinings and flannel shirting, when imported for use by the manufacturers and to be cut into shape for such purposes in bond under proper regulations, shall be dutiable at 15 per cent. This is a concession to the manufacturers of shirts, collars, cuffs, blouses, shirt waists and things of that sort."

A KICK FROM AN AGENT.

A manufacturer's agent well known in Montreal, said to THE REVIEW a short time ago: "I am not going to handle Canadian goods after next December. There is no money in them, for us. The trouble is the manufacturers do not know their own prices. They make more than they require and then are obliged to cut prices to clear them out. This ruins my business, and I am tired of it. Dealers are obliged to sell imported goods at fancy prices to recoup themselves for their losses on Canadian goods."

KNOX, MORGAN & CO.

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Our stock is in excellent shape for Summer Sortings, and we solicit your orders either by letter or through our representatives.