

NEW TARIFF A POWERFUL TRADE INSTRUMENT

(Continued from page 1.)

percentage rate is fixed at 17.12 per cent, because that cannot be said to be lower than a fair revenue tariff. In some cases a preference is allowed of 17.12 per cent, on imports from Britain, and 15 per cent, in the case of other countries.

"I think, however, repeated Mr. Fielding, "it will be found, on the whole, that as a result of the revision we leave the preference to Britain quite as much, and probably larger, than it is today, and that Britain will have a better chance to compete with foreign countries under this tariff than she has had in the past."

In connection with British preference the amount of British labor entering into a foreign product to qualify it as a British article has occasioned considerable difficulty. It is now provided, by regulation, that to entitle an article to admission under the British preference it must have 25 per cent of British labor without compensating the profits as a portion of that labor.

The Intermediate Tariff.

The intermediate tariff, he explained, would contain rates of duty somewhat below those of the general tariff. On duties of 30 per cent or less the difference, rightly showing, would be about ten per cent. In some cases it might be a little more. This middle tariff, however, would still leave a material preference in the British column. It was not proposed, at the present time, to apply the intermediate tariff to any country. The intention was to use it as an estimate by which Canada might negotiate more favorable tariff terms with the outside world.

"Canada was desirous of extending her markets abroad and wanted some tariff concessions to offer as an inducement for them to concede us more favorable terms. Just how far we might be able to use an instrument of this character for negotiations was a very interesting question that brought us into the field of what might almost be called Canada's foreign relations."

The wisdom of British statesmen has given self-governing countries like Canada practical fiscal independence, subject only to that imperial veto power which a thorough necessary under a constitutional system, is very seldom exercised. Canada had even the right to negotiate commercial arrangements with foreign countries which, however, might be terminated at any time by another party thereto. It was desired to frame a more permanent agreement, however, that could only be done by treaty. Although Canada enjoys a very large measure of self-government, it is quite recognized that the treaty making power still belongs to the sovereign. In practice there would be no difficulty in negotiating such treaty that might be desired through the proper channels.

A Fair Trade Persuader.

"All we do then by adopting this intermediate tariff is to hold it up to countries abroad and say: 'This is something you may obtain if you enter into treaty negotiations with Canada—you may obtain the whole tariff for equal compensation or you may obtain it. You may have it from day to day by reciprocal legislation or you may obtain it by treaty through the proper diplomatic channels.'

W. F. MacLean—Does this schedule include every article in the tariff? Mr. Fielding—Every article is set forth, but it does not follow that there is a difference in any article. On many there is no difference at all. The government schedule would have power to bring temporary applications of this general tariff into force from time to time. The granting of this intermediate tariff to any country would undoubtedly diminish the British preference to a certain extent, but not so as seriously limit the advantages of the latter. The operation of reciprocity legislation with several European powers was another serious complication that made it unwise to bring Canada's middle tariff into force at once.

"We must try," said Mr. Fielding, "to get several countries to make an arrangement with us and then if we should find them in about the same line it would not do us any harm if we had to bring in some half dozen other countries under the same favored nation treaty, the trade of which is not very important."

"It had sometimes been complained that the free admission of certain articles when used for a special purpose (chiefly manufacturing) was open to abuse and led to evasions. A few of these items were easily administered comprising articles that could be used one for the specific purpose for which they were designed. In such cases no change was made. Where, however, articles might be used for more than one purpose the duty was lessened by a refund, however, being allowed to the extent of 95 per cent of the duty upon proof that the article was used for the purpose designed."

"The arrangement which has prevailed from time immemorial by which a merchant importing goods for the government may import them duty free is now discontinued, as it has led to frequent misunderstanding and to evasions of the spirit and intent of the law. With a few exceptions, therefore, the privilege of free importation is withdrawn. The distinction between classes of duties is simplified in its operation by providing that where proceedings before any court of record have disclosed the existence of a combination in restraint of trade the government reduced or abolished the customs duty on the goods in question without the necessity of a special commission of inquiry. The judicial investigation may still be employed by the government, but the executive will not be under the obligation of resorting to that expedient."

Dumping Clause Extended.

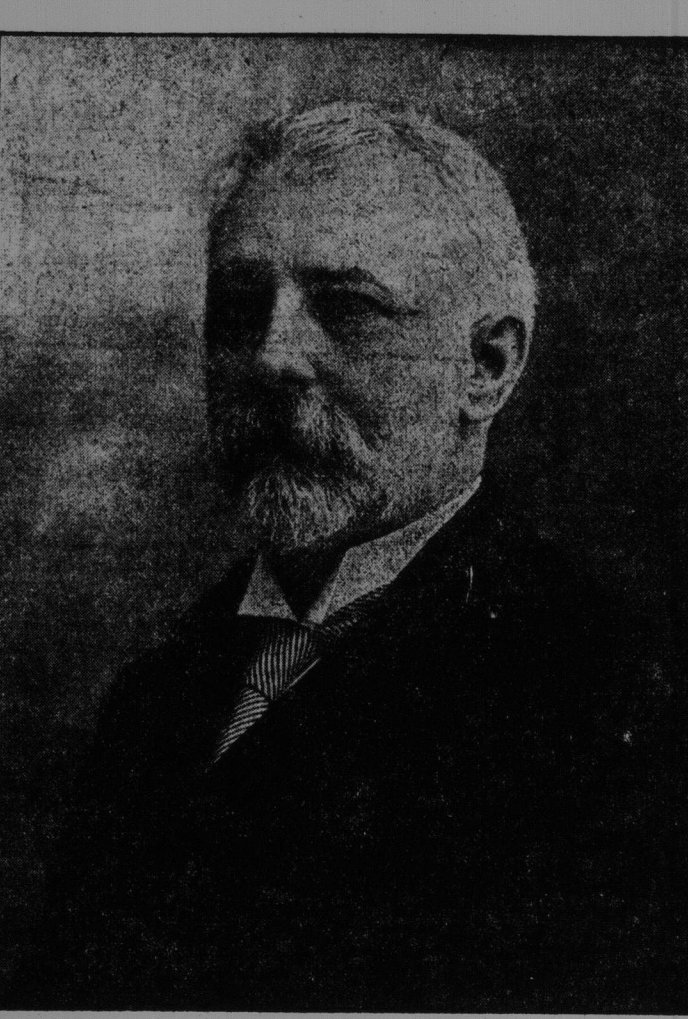
"The dumping clause, which on the whole had served its purpose well, was to be extended so as to apply to imports whether dutiable or free. In the case of articles on the free list when the dumping clause is applied the duty to be charged will not exceed 15 per cent."

"The government had given its most serious consideration to the generally expressed demand for a denatured alcohol suitable for purposes of light, fuel and power. The new tariff replaced the duty of \$2.40 a gallon on denatured alcohol by one of 20 cents to be used in a denaturing process only. If this small duty still prevents our obtaining cheap alcohol for fuel and similar purposes, the duty will be abolished after the order-in-council is issued. If the government does not succeed in providing cheap fuel alcohol individuals may be licensed to use what they can obtain under the most favorable conditions."

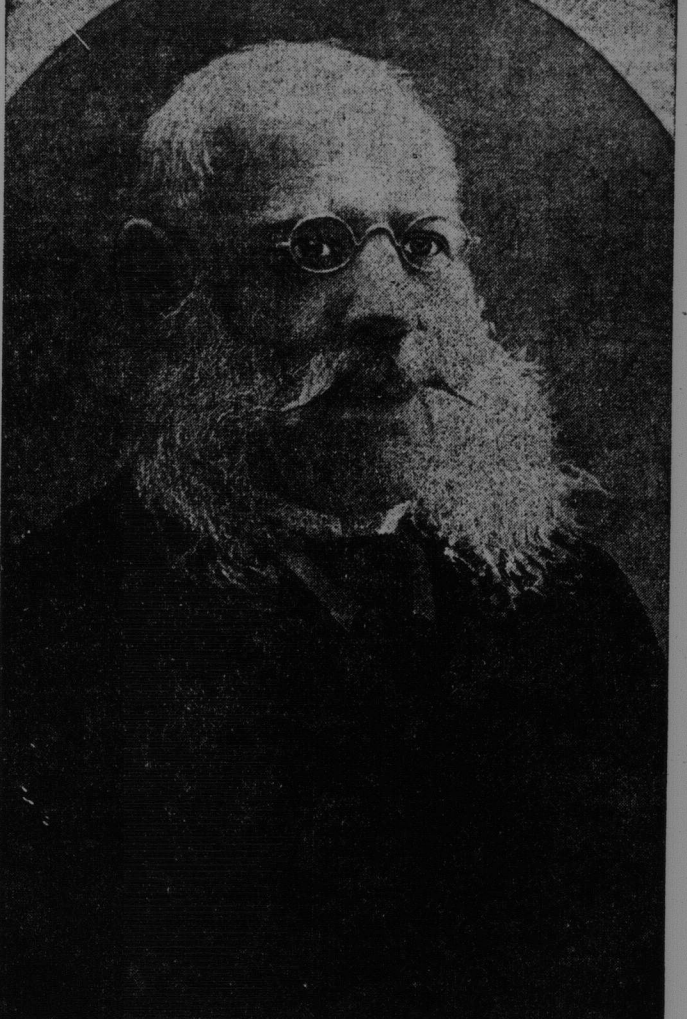
"The German surtax is to be maintained."

"The Canadian government would gladly enter upon negotiations with Germany for the removal of the surtax."

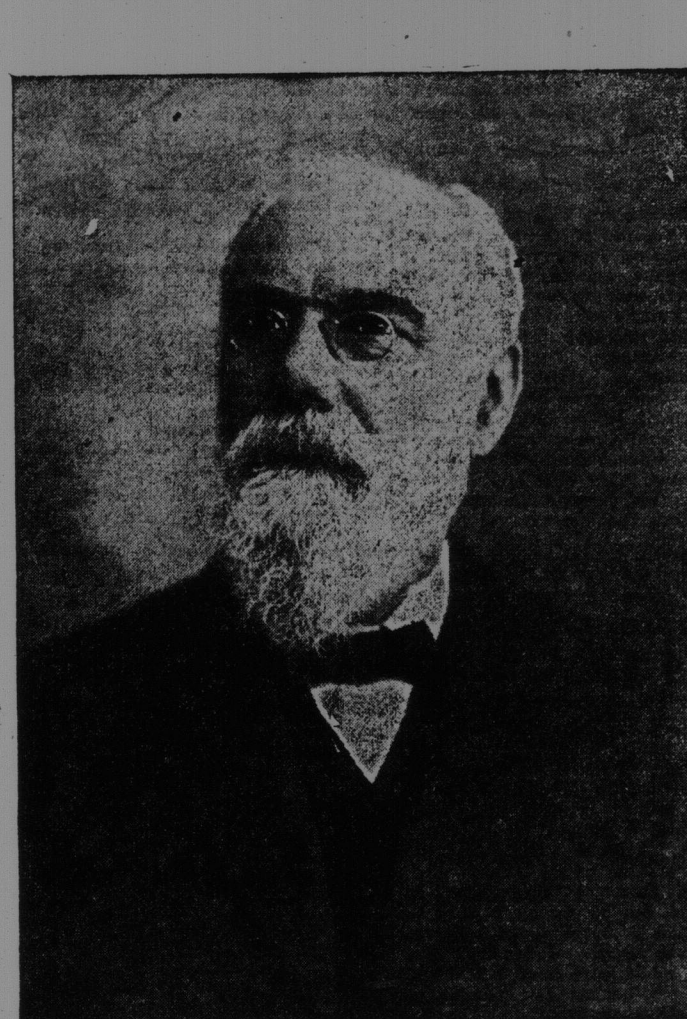
"The government was desirous that the cost of iron and steel to consumers in Canada should be as low as possible because of their being the foundation of an immense variety of industrial enterprises. For that reason bounties were granted ten years ago which diminished on a sliding scale that would run out altogether on the 31st July next. It was proposed to encourage this industry for a short period



HON. W. S. FIELDING,
Minister of Finance.



SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT,
Minister of Trade and Commerce.



HON. WM. PATTERSON,
Minister of Customs.

further by a continuation of the system of bounties. These bounties are given elsewhere in this correspondence. It was desired also to increase the larger use of Canadian ore. For this reason the bounties on pig manufactured from Canadian ore have been reduced.

"If Canada had not adopted the bounty system, unquestionably she would have been obliged to largely increase the duties on iron or to allow industries of great importance to the country to be closed down. The bounties had not been fruitless of good, but had already accomplished a great deal for the development of the country."

The finance minister then took up the new tariff schedules, referring only, however, to such items as were necessary to illustrate the way in which the customs revision had been accomplished.

Principal Changes in Tariff.

The finance minister's statement of principal changes in the tariff is as follows:

The rates on lead manufactures, including lead pipe, lead sheet and lead bullets have been reduced as follows:

New tariff rates—British preference, 20 per cent; general, 25 per cent.

Old tariff rates—British preference, 23 1/2 per cent; general, 35 per cent.

And the preferential rate on lead in bars and sheets, has been reduced from 16 2/3 per cent to 15 per cent.

In item 284 of the new tariff, formerly item 234 of the old tariff, an effort is made to divert trade to Great Britain and at the same time to cheapen the cost to the consumer. This item reads:

"Rolled iron or steel sheets, number four gauge and thinner, N. O. P., Canada plates, Russian iron, flat galvanized iron or steel sheets, ten plate and rolled sheets of iron or steel, coated with zinc, spelter or other metal, all widths and thicknesses, N. O. P.; and rolled or iron steel, hoop band, scroll or strip, number fourteen gauge and thinner, galvanized or coated with other metal, not, N. O. P."

The rates were formerly: General, 30 per cent; preferential, 3 1/2 per cent. The new rates are: British preference, free; intermediate, 5 per cent; general, 17 1/2 per cent. The articles are made free from Britain and made dutiable from other countries.

Tin, in blocks, pigs, bits, plates or sheets, is retained on the free list. The preferential rate on Japanese ware, tinware, and all manufactures of tin; also on manufactures of zinc and manufactures of aluminum, is reduced from 25 per cent to 15 per cent. The general tariff rate of 25 per cent on these articles is continued.

Duties, namely: B. pref., 5 per cent; inter., 7 1/2 per cent; general, 10 per cent, have been placed on brass in bars and rods, in coil or otherwise, not less than six feet in length, and on brass in sheets or plates, not polished, planished or coated. "Nickel, nickel silver and German silver, in bars and rods, in coil or otherwise, not less than six feet in length, and also in sheets or plates." These were formerly free but they are now made in Canada in substantial quantities.

Aluminum tubing, in lengths of not less than six feet, not polished, bent or otherwise manufactured, is added to the free list.

The general tariff rate on "Bismuth metal, nickel silver, Nevada and German silver, manufactures of, not plated, N. O. P." is increased from 25 per cent to 30 per cent and the preference from 16 2/3 per cent to 17 1/2 per cent.

Gold, silver and aluminum leaf, Dutch or Schleg metal leaf, however and bronze leaf, are added to the free list. The new tariff rates—B. pref., 15 per cent; inter., 25 per cent; general, 27 1/2 per cent. Old tariff rates—B. pref., 15 per cent; general, 25 per cent.

Sterling or other silver ware, nickel plated ware or electro plated ware and manufactures of gold and silver are increased. Under no deal, from 20 per cent to 35 per cent; under preference from 20 per cent to 22 1/2 per cent.

On clocks, watches, time recorders, vases, glasses, clock and watch keys, clock cases and clock movements. The general tariff is increased from 25 per cent to 30 per cent, and the preferential from 16 2/3 per cent to 20 per cent. Old tariff rates—B. pref., 15 per cent; general, 25 per cent. Intermediate rates, 22 1/2 per cent.

The old tariff, item 227, provided for the articles specified above at 87 per ton, general, and \$4.66 2/3 per ton, preferential, when weighing less than 35 lbs. per lineal yard. But if weighing over that rate was 10 per cent general, and 6 2/3 per cent preferential, under old tariff. Item 228.

Under the new item the qualification as to weight is wiped out and all such articles made dutiable at the rates above specified. Such of these articles as were dutiable at 10 per cent were subject to a bounty of \$3 per ton.

A special item 379 at low rates; B. pref., 5 per cent; inter., 10 per cent; gen., 10 per cent; has been provided covering beams, channels and angle bars, weighing not less than 40 lbs. per lineal yard, for the manufacture of bridges. Formerly such beams, channels and angle bars were dutiable as follows: If less than 33 lbs., \$7.00 per ton; if over 33 lbs., 10 per cent. The preference in favor of Great Britain is made greater than one third.

Under the old tariff, rolled iron or steel, rolled iron or steel, whether in coils, rods, bars, or bundles, comprising rounds, ovals, and squares and flats; steel bolts, N. O. P., and rolled iron or steel hoop, hand, scroll or strip, twelve inches or less in width, number 13 gauge and thicker, N. O. P., per ton, \$6.00 a ton; gen., \$7.00 a ton. Old tariff, item 229, B. pref., \$4.66 2/3 a ton; gen., \$7 a ton.

Under the old tariff, item 230, universal mill plates, without qualification as to size, were rated at 10 per cent, for manufacture of bridges. It is now specified that the size shall be over 12 inches wide and 30 inches in length, and not less than one quarter of an inch in thickness when imported by manufacturers of boilers for use in the manufacture of boilers: B. pref., 5 per cent; inter., 10 per cent; gen., 10 per cent.

Rolled iron or steel plates not less than four-eighths of an inch in width and exceeding one-half inch in thickness, N. O. P.; B. pref., 5 per cent; inter., 10 per cent; gen., 10 per cent.

Rolled iron or steel sheets or plates, sheared or unheated, and skip iron or steel, sheared or rolled in grooves, N. O. P. B. pref., \$4.25 per ton; inter., \$6 per ton; gen., \$7 per ton.

The changes may be summarized as follows:

- Plates 30 inches wide and over and not less than 48 inches in length, which were formerly dutiable at 10 per cent, unconditionally as to use, are continued dutiable at that rate for the manufacturers in sufficient quantities to meet the demand. They were formerly dutiable at 10 per cent as "printing machines," or type-making machines under old tariff 313.

Printing presses, lithographic presses and typographic composing machines, also all kinds of printing machinery, including presses, bookbinders, bookbinding, ruling, embossing and paper cutting machines and iron or steel parts thereof, N. O. P. The general tariff rate of 10 per cent, is continued, but the preferential is reduced from 6 2/3 per cent to 5 per cent. Old tariff rates, item 208—British preference, 3 1/2 per cent; general, 5 per cent. The price limit in the old tariff item was 21 1/2 cents per pound and it has been increased to 31 1/2 cents per pound.

On steel rail, the preferential rate is reduced slightly from \$4.66 2/3 per ton to \$4.50 per ton; the general tariff rate being maintained at \$7 per ton.

Railway fish-plates and tie-plates: Preferential rate decreased from \$5.33 1/3 per ton to \$5 per ton; general rate continued at \$8 per ton.

Swivels, frogs, inter-connections, crossings and sections for railways: General rate increased from 30 per cent to 32 1/2 per cent. Preferential rate kept at 20 per cent.

Cast iron pipe: Preferential rate increased from \$5.33 to \$6 per ton; general rate maintained at \$8 per ton.

Boiler tubes were formerly dutiable at 5 per cent general and 3 1/4 per cent preferential. They are made free from Great Britain and the 5 per cent general tariff rate is continued.

Seamless steel tubing, valued at not less than three and one-half cents per pound; rolled or drawn square tubing of iron or steel adapted for use in the manufacture of agricultural implements; British preference, free; intermediate, 5 per cent; general, 5 per cent. This is a new item, to cover mechanical tubing formerly rated from 5 per cent to 35 per cent not made in Canada which is used principally for manufacturing purposes. The item also applies to square drawn tubing used by

agricultural implement manufacturers formerly dutiable at 87 per ton.

Wrought iron or steel tubing. The rates formerly were: Over 2 inches, preference, 10 per cent; general, 15 per cent; two inches and less, preference, 23 1/2 per cent; general, 35 per cent. The diameter and rates are changed as follows: Over 4 inches, British preference, 10 per cent; intermediate, 12 1/2 per cent; general, 15 per cent; four inches and less, British preference, 20 per cent; intermediate, 30 per cent; general, 35 per cent. Such tubing up to four inches is now made in Canada.

Crucible cast steel wire, which was formerly free, is made dutiable, under general and intermediate at 5 per cent, and kept free under preferential. Such wire must not be less than 6 cents a pound.

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presses of not less value than \$1,500 by retail is continued.

Mold boards or shares or plough plates, land sides and other plates for agricultural implements, when cut to shape from rolled plates of steel but not moulded, punched, polished or otherwise manufactured, formerly dutiable at six per cent, are now free in all tariffs.

Moving machines, harvesters, self-binding or without binders, binding attachments, reapers. New tariff, B. preference, 12 1/2 per cent; intermediate, 17 1/2 per cent; general, 17 1/2 per cent.

Old tariff—B. preference, 13 1/2 per cent; general, 20 per cent. Item 318.

The manufacturers of these articles are compensated by a drawback of 95 per cent of the duty they may pay on pig iron, rolled iron, and rolled steel entering such machines sold for home consumption in Canada.

Wind mills have been reduced from 25 per cent to 20 per cent. Threshing machine outfit, when consisting of traction or portable engine and separator: New tariff, B. preference, 15 per cent; intermediate, 17 1/2 per cent; general, 20 per cent. Old tariff—B. preference, 16 2/3 per cent; general, 25 per cent.

Threshing outfits have been admitted to duty at large discounts from the list price to the farmer in the United States, the effect of which was, in the opinion of home manufacturers, to reduce their profits very considerably. The department of customs felt obliged to reduce the rate of discount materially. The new rate, based upon increased value for duty, will be about equivalent to the old rate based on the old value of duty.

Alkes, scythes, sickles or reaping hook, hay or straw knives, adging knives, hoes, rakes and pronged forks. New tariff—B. preference, 15 per cent; intermediate, 20 per cent; general, 22 1/2 per cent. Old tariff—B. preference, 12 1/2 per cent; general, 25 per cent.

The general tariff of 25 per cent is continued on the following agricultural implements: Hay loaders, potato diggers, horse powers, separators, N. O. P. windmills, fodder or feed cutters, grain crushers, fanning mills, hay tedders, farm road or field rollers, post hole diggers, and other agricultural implements, N. O. P.

Shovels and spades, iron or steel N. O. P. shovels and spades, blanks and iron or steel cut for shape for the same, lawn mowers: New tariff—B. preference, 20 per cent; intermediate, 30 per cent; general, 35 per cent. Old tariff—B. preference, 23 1/2 per cent; general, 35 per cent.

Bit pulleys of all kinds for power transmission, British preference, 15 per cent; intermediate, 25 per cent; general, 27 1/2 per cent. Former rates, if wood or split, 25 per cent; if iron or steel, 30 per cent.

Telephone and telegraph instruments, electric and galvanic batteries, electric dynamos, generators, sockets, insulators of all kinds of electrical apparatus, N. O. P.; rollers, N. O. P., and all machinery composed wholly or in part of iron or steel N. O. P., and inter galvanic, N. O. P.—British preference, 15 per cent; intermediate, 25 per cent; general, 30 per cent. Old tariff—B. preference, 17 1/2 per cent; general, 35 per cent.

Manufacturers of iron or steel N. O. P.—B. preference, 20 per cent; general, 30 per cent. A number of articles of iron and steel specified in old tariff, are not named in new tariff, and fall under this general item. "Manufactures of iron or steel N. O. P." The principal exceptions are iron and steel castings, in the rough, formerly dutiable at 25 per cent, now 30 per cent.

Ingot moulds, which were free, are made dutiable at 10 per cent, general tariff; 7 1/2 per cent, intermediate, and 5 per cent, under the general and an increase of 1 1/2 per cent under the preferential on printed, dyed or colored fabrics, N. O. P. These rates are also made applicable to similar fabrics of linen. It is considered advisable to have common rates on cotton and linen fabrics as these articles are so interwoven that it is impossible to distinguish between them.

All such linen fabrics were formerly dutiable at 25 per cent under the general tariff and 16 2/3 per cent under the preferential tariff.

Cotton duck for belting or hose, which was free, is made dutiable with other duck weighing over 8 ounces per square yard at the following rates, viz: British preference, 15 per cent; intermediate, 17 1/2 per cent; general, 20 per cent. Cotton duck other than belting or hose duck was formerly dutiable at 22 1/2 per cent under the general tariff and 15 per cent under the preferential tariff. Under the new tariff it is eight ounces and lighter in weight will be dutiable as cotton fabrics. White cotton embroideries which were rated at 25 per cent and valencennes, torches and white cotton lace, were dutiable at 20 per cent are now, in one

A special of 10 per cent, in all three tariffs is provided for machinery of a class or kind not made in Canada, specially adapted for carding, spinning, weaving or knitting purposes.

Well-drilling machinery for boring and drilling for water is made free, whether made in Canada or not.

Platinum crucibles are added to the free list.

Steel balls, formerly rated at 30 per cent, used on bearings of machinery and vehicles rated—B. preferential, free; intermediate, 7 1/2 per cent; general, 10 per cent.

Item 389 has been changed to read "rolled steel for saws and for saw cutters not tempered or ground, nor further manufactured than cut to shape, without indented edges."

Sugar: The rates on refined sugar are maintained as they were, but there is an increase on raw sugar of 12 cents per 100 pounds under the general tariff, and 7 cents per 100 pounds under the preferential. The rates are: Refined, new tariff—B. preference, 72 cents per 100 pounds and 1 1/2 per cent for each additional degree; intermediate, 88 cents and 1 1/2 per cent for each additional degree over 88 degrees; general, 98 cents and 1 1/2 per cent for each additional degree over 98 degrees. Refined, new tariff—B. preference, 72 cents per 100 pounds and 1 1/2 per cent for each additional degree; intermediate, 88 cents and 1 1/2 per cent for each additional degree over 88 degrees; general, 98 cents and 1 1/2 per cent for each additional degree over 98 degrees.

Last year the quantities of sugar imported were, raw 420,000,000 pounds, refined 28,000,000 pounds. On that basis the Canadian refiner has over 90 per cent of the Canadian business.

The cent of the Canadian business, the duty on glucose and syrups are reduced thus: New tariff—B. P., 35 cents per hundred pounds; inter., 45 cents per hundred pounds; general 50 cents per hundred pounds.

The specific rate of 1 1/2 cent a pound on "comestibles" is dropped and the advance rate of 35 per cent, general is continued. The ad valorem rate under the preference is reduced from 25 1/3 per cent to 22 1/2 per cent.

Molasses—The produce of any British country entitled to the benefit of the British preferential tariff is continued on the free list and it is provided that it shall be imported direct by vessel from the country of production or from any British country. Such molasses may test up to 55 degrees by the ponderal scale. This is to cover fancy molasses from Barbados. As respects molasses not the produce of any British country entitled to the preference, the rates of duty have been changed as follows: Formerly molasses 40 degrees and over, paid 1 3/4 cents per gallon and for each degree below 40 and not less than 35 an additional duty of 1/2 cent per gallon. Molasses below 35 degrees was dutiable at 34 cents a pound. The new tariff provides that such non-British molasses not less than 30 and not more than 55 degrees shall pay 3 cents per gallon general and 2 1/3 cents per gallon intermediate.

Cotton, woolen and other similar manufactures. The rates on cotton fabrics have not been changed to any appreciable extent. They are: Grey cotton, unbleached, N. O. P.—British preference, 15 per cent; intermediate, 22 1/2 per cent; general, 25 per cent. White cotton, bleached, N. O. P.—British preference, 17 1/2 per cent; intermediate, 22 1/2 per cent; general, 25 per cent. Printed, dyed or colored N. O. P.—British preference, 20 per cent; intermediate, 30 per cent; general, 35 per cent.

This is a reduction of 12 1/2 per cent from 16 2/3 per cent to 5 per cent under the preferential tariff on grey cottons, bleached an increase from 16 2/3 per cent to 17 1/2 per cent under the preference on white fabrics, a decrease of 2 1/2 per cent under the general and an increase of 1 1/2 per cent under the preferential on printed, dyed or colored fabrics, N. O. P. These rates are also made applicable to similar fabrics of linen. It is considered advisable to have common rates on cotton and linen fabrics as these articles are so interwoven that it is impossible to distinguish between them.

All such linen fabrics were formerly dutiable at 25 per cent under the general tariff and 16 2/3 per cent under the preferential tariff.

Cotton duck for belting or hose, which was free, is made dutiable with other duck weighing over 8 ounces per square yard at the following rates, viz: British preference, 15 per cent; intermediate, 17 1/2 per cent; general, 20 per cent. Cotton duck other than belting or hose duck was formerly dutiable at 22 1/2 per cent under the general tariff and 15 per cent under the preferential tariff. Under the new tariff it is eight ounces and lighter in weight will be dutiable as cotton fabrics. White cotton embroideries which were rated at 25 per cent and valencennes, torches and white cotton lace, were dutiable at 20 per cent are now, in one

item and the following rate is imposed thereon: British preference, 12 1/2 per cent; intermediate, 17 1/2 per cent; general, 20 per cent.

The preferential rate on silk, linen and cotton clothing, corsets, handkerchiefs, fringes, cords, laces, N. O. P. braids, elastic, embroideries, N. O. P. Cuffs and shams and nettings have been increased from 23 1/2 to 25 per cent, silk in the grain or shams for the manufacture of woven fabrics is free. On elastic webbing, which was dutiable under the old tariff at 20 per cent, but that is applicable only to such webbing for use in the manufacture of suspenders.

Elastic webbing over one and one-quarter inches wide is made dutiable at British preference, 12 1/2 per cent; intermediate, 17 1/2 per cent; general, 25 per cent. Under the old tariff it was dutiable at 20 per cent less 1/3 under the preferential tariff without qualification as to width.

The rate of 20 per cent under the general tariff on cotton waste for wiping machinery and on shams formerly dutiable at 23 per cent less 1/3 under the preference but made by the seamstress were 23 1/3 per cent preferential and 35 per cent general.

Hemp, dressed, has been added to hemp "undressed" in free list.

Linen yarn for manufacture of damask is added to free list.

Under the old tariff articles entering into the cost of binder twine were entitled to free entry. It has been provided that right to free entry, 45 cents per hundred pounds; general 50 cents per hundred pounds.

The specific rate of 1 1/2 cent a pound on "comestibles" is dropped and the advance rate of 35 per cent, general is continued. The ad valorem rate under the preference is reduced from 25 1/3 per cent to 22 1/2 per cent.

Molasses—The produce of any British country entitled to the benefit of the British preferential tariff is continued on the free list and it is provided that it shall be imported direct by vessel from the country of production or from any British country. Such molasses may test up to 55 degrees by the ponderal scale. This is to cover fancy molasses from Barbados. As respects molasses not the produce of any British country entitled to the preference, the rates of duty have been changed as follows: Formerly molasses 40 degrees and over, paid 1 3/4 cents per gallon and for each degree below 40 and not less than 35 an additional duty of 1/2 cent per gallon. Molasses below 35 degrees was dutiable at 34 cents a pound. The new tariff provides that such non-British molasses not less than 30 and not more than 55 degrees shall pay 3 cents per gallon general and 2 1/3 cents per gallon intermediate.

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All such linen fabrics were formerly dutiable at 25 per cent under the general tariff and 16 2/3 per cent under the preferential tariff.

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