

manufacturers of woollen goods that it would prevent their manufacturing the ordinary blanket so much required in this country, and it was decided by the Government to place the duty only upon those wools which came into this country, that came into competition with our Cotswold, Lincoln and Leicesters. The duty was placed, in fact, on wool that is not imported to any extent at all, and virtually was no protection to our farmers. The object of the Government was to enable the manufacturers of woollen goods in this country to obtain short wool at a lower price, for short wool was not then raised to any great extent in this country; the wool chiefly raised was the Cotswold and Leicesters in consequence of the carcass of the sheep being much more valuable. By admitting short wool free, the Government enabled the manufacturers of blankets and other woollen goods to use up a large quantity of our own combing wool, mixing it with the short wool; it was thought perhaps best in the interests of the farmers themselves that for a time at least, until the woollen manufacturers had become firmly established, short wool should be admitted free, and the duty placed only on wool brought into direct competition with our long combing wool; but I think if the Government go still further and admit an article that will come in direct competition with the wools of this country, they will injure the farmers. Shoddy is an article that ought not to be admitted free of duty, because it encourages the manufacture of goods that are sold to the people for prices the goods are not worth; the people will not get good value for their money. The encouragement of such manufactures is not in the interest of the people at large.

Mr. IVES. The difficulty is that in the manufacture of blankets they must have a certain thickness and body in order to be saleable. To provide cheap blankets for the uses for which cheap blankets are required and to give them the necessary heaviness and body, it is found impossible, even at the low price at which wool now sells, to use all wool, and compete successfully with the imported shoddy blanket. The result is that unless the duty is increased upon the imported article, the long wools of this country will not be used to the same extent in the manufacture of cheap blankets that they would be if the raw material or shoddy is allowed to come in free of duty. My impression is that if you allow the importation of rags free of duty, you will actually bring about a larger consumption of cheap wool in the manufacture of these blankets. The position is actually this: We have a blanket manufactory in Sherbrooke, the firm of A. G. Lomas & Co.; Mr. Lomas is a most intelligent man who says what he thinks and means, and he told me that he found it impossible to make an all-wool blanket, with wool at its present prices, to compete with the shoddy blanket. He said he could not give it the body and the weight necessary, and the result was he was obliged to alter his manufactory altogether and make a different blanket. To do that, he has to do as the foreign manufacturer does, put in a lot of stuff which makes thickness and body without much cost, and therefore I undertake to say that the admission of rags free of duty, will actually create a larger consumption of our coarse wool. I am not prepared to say but what the increase of duty upon the shoddy blankets would not make it possible to make an all-wool Canadian blanket out of cheap wool with body enough to answer the purpose. With the present rate of duty on the imported blanket, you will bring about a larger use of our long wool by importing shoddy free than by putting a duty on it. As to the cheapness of wool, that is a matter entirely beyond our control. The growth of immense herds of sheep running out of doors the whole year round, summer and winter, in portions of the United States, and in South America to an enormous

Mr. ORTON.

extent, and in South Africa and Australia to an enormous extent, has entirely revolutionised the product of wool and mutton, and it is very questionable whether it will ever be possible for the farmers here or in New England, where forage has to be cut and the sheep have to be housed for four or five months in the year, to compete in the article of wool or in mutton with those countries where sheep are raised in enormous herds without any care, in fact where they raise themselves. I do not think, therefore, it is possible for us, without very largely increasing the cost of the manufactured article, to raise the price of wool or the price of mutton.

Mr. CASEY. I hardly know which of the two last speeches has done more good to our side of the case in this argument.

Mr. McCALLUM. Will the hon. gentleman tell us which is his side?

Mr. CASEY. The hon. member for Wellington (Mr. Orton) supported the farmers' view of the case ably and clearly. The hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Ives) stated the manufacturers' case strongly and clearly, and his speech is perhaps the more damaging to the Government of the two. He says the maker of shoddy blankets cannot make as good profits out of them now as he wants to, even at the absurdly low price, the unprecedentedly low price of wool in Canada to-day. The manufacturers in his own town have told him that they cannot compete with the foreign blanket. When we have 60 per cent. duty on the imported shoddy blanket and the price of wool is 16 or 18 cents a pound, surely they have a chance to make a profit. But even then they are not satisfied. Either they must have the shoddy brought in free to be "tied together," as the hon. gentleman says, with a little Canadian wool, to hold it together long enough to be sold, or they must have a further increase in the already enormously high duty on the poor man's blanket. Neither of these things is necessary in the interest of the manufacturer. The Cornwall factory was making excellent blankets with as much body in them as anyone could desire, and with more of the spirit of honesty too than they are made with nowadays, before the National Policy was heard of—as good and better blankets than now. And what was the price of wool then? Was it 16 or 18 cents a pound. I remember that in 1872, while the elections were going on, wool was as high as 60 cents a pound, and yet the Cornwall factory went on and made excellent blankets, and did not complain so much of foreign competition as they are doing now when they have a duty of 60 per cent. on the foreign shoddy and are allowed to import shoddy free to put into their own blankets, while the price of wool is at the same time absurdly low. I agree with the statement of my hon. friend from Huntingdon (Mr. Scriver) that this proposition is adding insult to the injury already done to the farmer. The Minister of Customs has tried to leave the impression on our minds that the Canadian home grown wool is really protected to some noticeable degree. He read from the tariff that Leicester, Cotswold, Lincolnshire, Down combing wools, or wools known as lustre wools and other like combing wools such as are grown in Canada shall pay a certain duty. Whoever made up that tariff must have been familiar with a different kind of South Downs or any other Downs from those grown in Canada. I have seen a great many Down sheep, and I do not think I ever saw one that had anything like combing wool on its back.

Mr. McNEILL. Oxford Downs have.

Mr. CASEY. The wool may be a little longer on them than on the South Downs, but I do not think it is used as combing wool.

Mr. McNEILL. It is wool four or five inches long.