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THE TUPPER TARIFF.

In answer to the thrice-repeated voice of the voting population of Canada sustaining the present Government in their policy of protecting Canadian manufacturers, and of building up Canadian manufacturing industries, Sir Charles Tupper, Canada's Finance Minister, in his recent budget speech has declared the future policy of the Government regarding the imposition of tariff duties upon imported merchandise, a full understanding of which can be obtained by reference to the resolutions presented to parliament by Sir Charles, printed in full in another page of this paper.

The proposed changes in the tariff are generally in the way of advances, made necessary by the experience of the Government in enforcing the old laws, and for increasing the revenue. Under the National Policy a large number of industries have sprung into existence which are supplying to a gratifying extent the demand for home consumption, but which are deserving of a still greater degree of protection to enable them to successfully contend against the cheaper similar products of older and more wealthy enterprises in other countries. This further protection, while ensuring the permanent success of our weaker manufacturing industries, assures an increased advantage in the way of remuneration to factory operatives and skilled artisans, but without unjust prejudice to consumers.

The items on which the greatest changes are proposed embrace articles of luxury, and fall the heaviest on those consumers who are the best able to bear them. Those articles which are in the greatest demand by all classes of the community, and those which are the least advanced from the conditions of crude

ness—from being absolutely "raw material"—are charged with the minimum taxation, the advancing stages in the manufacture of the imports signaling corresponding advances in the amounts charged. Of course the intention of this is to encourage the importation into Canada of the cruder materials on which but little labor has been expended, and the conversion of the same into the more costly articles of commerce, giving encouragement to the investment of capital in Canadian manufacturing enterprises, the erection of furnaces, foundries, workshops and factories, and the employment of large numbers of skilled operators and artisans. Where this is not the obvious result to be anticipated, the operation of the tariff will be to foster and build up industries of which Canada is painfully deficient, and without which she could never hope to attain that greatness and independence which is her due, and for which we all hope.

This latter remark is intended to apply particularly to the iron industry of Canada, and Sir Charles has grappled with the question in a manner which commends his fearlessness to all who appreciate the weakness of Canada in this respect, and who earnestly wish to see her lifted from her dependent position on other nations and elevated to a plane on which stands Great Britain, Belgium, Germany and the United States—the great iron producing and iron

manufacturing nations of the world. While some may argue that the additional duty of one-tenth of a cent a pound on pig iron is oppressive, and will work hardship to those industries consuming large quantities of the article, it should be remembered that similar industries in the United States are burdened with a much higher duty than Canadians have to bear. At the time of the inauguration of the Morrill

