

able from a revenue and also from a consumer's point of view.

Mr. BOWELL. I am not in a position to speak as to the correctness of that statement. I have not yet learned that cotton winceys are as cheap as that. I know, in communicating with a manufacturer of winceys in Bradford, England, Mr. Slater, who is now manufacturing a very good class of cotton winceys, gave me no such price as that. He claimed that 20 per cent. was not a sufficient protection; of course he spoke from a manufacturer's point of view.

Mr. BLAKE. Perhaps the hon. gentleman, before concurrence, will give the House some information as to what the real incidence of this duty will be. He has not answered the point I put to him. If they are winceys of the class stated in the first paragraph, that is to say, all cotton, checked, striped or fancy, and over thirty inches wide, there is a practical increase of duty, because the present tariff limits the class on which a duty is charged of 2 cents per yard and 15 per cent. *ad valorem* to cloths over twenty-five and under thirty inches; and those in excess of thirty inches are now being brought under a higher rate of duty. Why is this?

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I spoke of the prices of cotton winceys in England, not laid down here. There are, of course, very great reductions made from time to time.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). With respect to those cotton winceys, the Minister has explained to the gentleman whom he named that the duty would be placed at 22½ per cent., while 27½ is imposed as a protection to a print mill. Why should hon. gentlemen opposite, under a policy that is not having an eye to revenue but to the protection of manufacturers, give to one manufacturer of a similar line of goods in some respect 27½ per cent. duty, and to another, which is also a pioneer industry, 22½ per cent. It appears they first placed the rate at 25, but reduced it to 22½. I desire an explanation from the standpoint of hon. gentlemen opposite as to why manufacturers are treated on different lines.

Mr. BOWELL. It is difficult to answer that question, because I had no conversation with the gentleman referred to as to the policy of imposing 22½ per cent. or any other figure. He, like other manufacturers, asked for a larger measure of protection to his industry. In considering the question, it was at first decided to place winceys made in this country at 25 per cent. *ad valorem*. Upon further consideration and after consultation with those in the trade, we came to the conclusion to place the tariff at 22½ for these classes of goods, by which we would not only give the manufacturer of that article a better protection than he had before, but it would also relieve the merchant and those who have the responsibility of collecting the duty from all difficulty, comparatively speaking, that has presented itself in the different districts as to distinctions between cloths and winceys and alpacas and other classes of goods brought into the country. To-day you have what is called the condola cloth. Next year that fabric may have entirely gone out and you may have "Khartoums," or something else. Those are the difficulties that presented themselves, and after full consideration we came to the conclusion that it was much better to lower the duty on this particular class of winceys and to make it 22½ per cent. for all this class of fabrics brought into the country. This article, as the hon. gentleman knows, does not come into competition with any other in the Dominion. I am not aware—although the hon. member for Wellington told me so the other night—that winceys are manufactured in some other place in Canada than Brantford. From all my enquiries I have failed to find that they are. When I asked Mr. Slater, when he first came into the country with his machinery, why he did not enter into this industry, as there was no competition, he gave me the answer which I

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suppose he thought sufficient, considering the question from his own standpoint, that there was greater protection on cotton, and he decided to go into that which he deemed would pay him best. As there is but one mill and as we thought 22½ per cent. would be a protection to him, we acceded to his requests so far as we thought it advisable in the interest of the trade, the revenue, and the manufacturer.

Mr. McMULLEN. I feel that the statement of the ex-Finance Minister as to the value per yard will not exceed the figure he said, when you add two cents per square yard and 15 per cent. you virtually make it 35 per cent. which is an excessive duty for that particular article. I have no doubt that it comes in competition with the article of winceys manufactured in this country, but at the same time I look upon it as very excessive to put on such an enormous duty.

Mr. BOWELL. The hon. gentleman knows that all cotton manufactures are two cents and 15 per cent. I have however made a note of the question by the leader of the Opposition, as to the effect from the *ad valorem* duty, and will endeavor to ascertain it.

Mr. BLAKE. Also the question as to the reason why he omits specifically the width in winceys. The hon. gentleman will see that winceys over 30 inches are taxed *ad valorem* only, and that now he is proposing by omitting that specification of 30 inches, to tax all those in excess of 30 inches two cents and 15 per cent., so that he is making that change adversely to those over 30 inches, if such there be. I was about to say that I think the hon. gentleman is perfectly correct in stating that his present proposals are more advantageous to the general conduct of the importing business of the country than those which were in the first instance brought down, and they are to that extent an advantage and a relief indirectly to the consumer, because those things which involve difficulties and complications to the importer have ultimately, I am afraid, to be borne by the consumer, so that anything which the hon. gentleman can do in the way of giving certainty and simplicity to the importer is also important to the consumer. The hon. gentleman says these proposals are better than his last, and so far I agree with him. But he will remember that the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.

Mr. BOWELL. Not always.

Mr. BLAKE. Well, the good book says so, though I do not say that the hon. gentleman is of that class whose tender mercies are cruel. I say I have received many complaints of the difficulties that the importers labor under in respect to this present tariff as it was, and many more as to the proposed changes, which seemed to aggravate the difficulties that existed, owing to the want of uniformity of judgment.

Mr. BOWELL. I hope the hon. gentleman does not refer to the amendment.

Mr. BLAKE. No, I say I think it is an improvement and I am glad to see it so far. Still I say that the trade complain seriously as to the consequences of constant changes. It really is most embarrassing to those who have to buy, for we know that the present custom of the trade is that goods are bought and sold in advance by samples, and that these constant changes of the tariff are extremely embarrassing to the importer, and that the consumer must ultimately pay for them. Although the importer suffers to some extent by reason of the diminution of his trade when excessive duties are laid upon him, and because that the higher the cost of the article the less the people will buy it if they can avoid it, still his main interest is simplicity and uniformity. But the consuming public has another interest, namely the rate of taxation actually paid, and upon that point the hon. gentleman has agreed to