

year 1874, ending 1st March, only exceeded that for the corresponding period of 1873 by the sum of \$1,170,000, almost the whole of which was due to the admission of Prince Edward Island into the Dominion.

2nd. That the Customs revenue up to the 1st April of the same year was only \$250,000 more to that date of the fiscal year 1874 than in 1873, although the effect of the expected new tariff (announced in the Speech from the Throne, 26th March, 1874), was then beginning to be felt.

3rd. That the Customs returns for 1874 likewise establish the fact that the sum of \$300,000 was obtained by the alteration of the tariff from 15 to 17½ per cent., a sum of \$130,000 by the new duties imposed on tea, coffee, ships' materials, iron, and miscellaneous articles, and about \$100,000 more from the additional duty on wines, gin, brandy, rum, whiskey, &c., amounting in all to \$530,000, obviously and directly derived from the new tariff.

3rd. *a.* That an enormous increase occurred in the importation of certain articles in the last three or four months of the fiscal year 1874, as compared with the same period in 1873, amounting to an increase of duties paid of nearly \$400,000 on the articles of wine, gin, rum, brandy, whiskey and cigars alone.

4th. It is also established by the evidence of the Customs returns that there was a marked falling off in the importation of many of the above articles during the six months from July, 1874, to 1st January, 1875, as compared with the corresponding period of the year 1873, thus proving that a considerable portion of the natural revenue of 1875 had actually been anticipated. This occurs, as above stated, in such articles as brandies, wines, cigars, &c., and importation of cottons, fancy goods, &c.

5th. That this occurred in spite of the harvest of 1874 having been enormously superior to that of 1873, and of the well-known circumstance that the usual and inevitable consequence of a very good harvest (other things being equal), is invariably to increase the consumption of articles of luxury of those particular kinds (*inter alia*).

6th. That the total volume of imports of all sorts was \$100,000 less for the fiscal year 1874 than for 1873, the gross exports being likewise about \$450,000 less than in 1873 (in spite of Prince Edward Island being included).

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