

hear come from the lips of the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) certain erroneous statements about the tobacco duties. I tell the hon. gentleman, that if he circulates that speech of his throughout the county of Bothwell, and if they take no more stock in the whole speech than they will in his statement about tobacco, then the speech will find a repository in the back yard before they get beyond that one single assertion. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) said that this government had put over \$1,000,000 duty on the poor man's tobacco, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) now nods his head in assent. I had hoped that by this time he would have recanted, and would have been sorry for making a statement which is so absolutely far from the facts. No one knows better than the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy), because he grows tobacco himself, that you can go into the market of the town of Wallaceburg, or the village of Dresden, where he lives, and you can buy for 66½ cents to-day the same amount of tobacco that you would have to pay \$1 for before 1897. No one knows better than the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) that Havana cigars and fancy Virginia smoking tobacco have increased in price—that is, cigars costing from eight to twelve cents, or that you buy over the counter at two for a quarter of a dollar. Fancy Virginia smoking tobacco, costing from \$1.50 to \$2 per pound, and cigarettes, have increased in price, I will admit. But, Sir, when it comes down to the tobacco that is consumed by a large number of the members of this House, when it comes down to the tobacco that is consumed by the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), when it comes down to the tobacco which is consumed by the masses of Canada to-day, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) knows full well that the price of that tobacco has been reduced by 50 per cent. Before I take my seat I shall prove to the satisfaction of the hon. gentleman that such is the case. I do not want to be misunderstood on this point. I say that tobacco manufactured from foreign leaf is dearer to-day than it was prior to the tariff of 1897.

Mr. CLANCY. Hear, hear.

Mr. COWAN. I am glad the hon. member for Bothwell agrees with me in that, and I hope he will go further and agree with me in my next proposition. While fancy foreign tobacco has increased in price, I say that the duties imposed by this government have brought into existence in Canada a tobacco the equal in every way of tobacco which is manufactured from foreign leaf, and to-day you can buy one pound and a half of that tobacco for the same price that you paid for one pound prior to 1897. I shall prove that assertion to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy), so that when he again makes a speech

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on tobacco he will not fall into the error he has fallen into to-night. Prior to the tariff of 1897, there were twelve plugs to the pound, costing five cents a plug, or sixty cents a pound. You can now buy Canadian tobacco, either smoking or chewing, equal in quality to that for five cents a plug, eight plugs to the pound, or forty cents a pound. You can to-day buy a pound and a half for the same amount of money that you paid for a pound prior to 1897. That means that the quantity of tobacco that cost five cents prior to 1897 can now be bought for three and a half cents, or one and a half cents per plug or fig, cheaper than before the duties were arranged by the Liberal government. I have no desire to give an object lesson in the House, but if any one denies that statement I will refer him to the standard makes of tobacco. I have in my hand—and I will go into the quality later on—'Consols' smoking tobacco, manufactured by Wm. McDonald, of Montreal, probably the best known man in the tobacco trade in Canada. Here is 'Consols' smoking, weight one-fifth of a pound, worth twenty cents a plug at the retail store—and I am dealing with the retailer now, and not with the wholesale man, because after all, it is with the retailer that the workingman deals. We have here five plugs to the pound, at twenty cents a plug, or \$1 a pound. I have another sample, one of the best known brands of tobacco manufactured from foreign leaf, 'T. & B.' made by Tuckett & Billings, of Hamilton. The weight of this is one-quarter of a pound, and some retailers sell it for twenty cents, and some for twenty-five cents, so that its cost is from eighty cents to \$1 a pound. I now hold in my hand the product of the Empire Tobacco Company, of Granby, Que., a plug made out of tobacco grown in Bothwell, Kent and Essex counties, purchased there and shipped to Granby, Quebec, where it is manufactured. This sells at ten cents a plug, four and a half plugs to the pound, being forty-five cents a pound. Here is McDonald's Consols, \$1 per pound, T. & B., eighty cents to \$1 a pound, and the Empire Tobacco Company's tobacco, forty-five cents per pound, or 50 per cent cheaper than the foreign article. So much for that line of smoking tobacco. I produce here McDonald's 'Briar,' eight plugs to the pound, retailed in every store at ten cents a plug, and I have here again the Empire Canadian leaf, nine plugs to the pound, worth five cents a plug. One eighty cents a pound, and the other, made by the Empire Company, worth forty-five cents a pound, and yet the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) stands up in his place in this House and states that the poor man is taxed \$1,150,000 a year on his tobacco, and the funny part of it is that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) still nods his head in confirmation of the erroneous assertions he made to the House. I am not