

The tariff question is something which is discussed annually in parliament; it has been discussed for years. Read speeches delivered in the past; read budget debates as far back as you like to go, and you will find that there have been always two schools of thought on the question. In the past we have had an actual experiment to show the effect upon the people of this country of the increase of our tariff. There is a fallacy, shared to a large extent by members of the government and by some of our Progressive friends from the prairies, that an increase in duties necessarily involves an increase in price. That is an economic fallacy. I would commend to hon. members a study of the budget* speech delivered by Sir Leonard Tilley in 1882. A very exhaustive and careful inquiry had been made of the consequences and the effects of the national policy of 1878, and Sir Leonard Tilley uttered the following words, to which I will ask hon. members to pay particular attention, inasmuch as they apply with equal

force to-day and no doubt are frequently quoted:

What our manufacturers say is "We can manufacture as cheaply here as in the United States, but we want the market. We are prepared for the sharpest competition, and we do not fear our friends on the other side of the line, if we have the home market, and competition among ourselves will keep the prices down to the consumer."

The basis and accuracy of the inquiry is evidenced in these words of Tilley:

I wish reliable data, not data that could be shaken by any statement of fact that could be produced in the house, because we want nothing but the facts, and if the manufacturers are getting larger profits, it would be just as well that we should know of it, and deal with the facts as we found them.

Then he quotes a number of articles showing the variations in prices as a result of the increase in duty. I have copied them from the budget speech of 1882, and with the permission of the house I would ask that this short table be placed on Hansard:

Article	Variation in price
Etoffes.. . . . }	Average price lower than during previous 10 years.
Tweeds.. . . . }	10 per cent lower.
Fabrics.. . . . }	Lower than any time in history.
Grey and white cotton and brown sheetings..	Average price lower than for 10 years prior to 1878.
Medium and fine woollen fabrics.. . . . }	As low as any period in 10 years.
Woollen goods.. . . . }	Lower.
Flannels.. . . . }	Lower.
Blankets.. . . . }	Lower (from \$62 to \$60).
Coarse woollen caps and felt hats.. . . . }	Lower (from \$105 to \$100).
Underclothing.. . . . }	Lower (from \$160 to \$150).
Wagons.. . . . }	15 per cent lower.
Carriages.. . . . }	5 per cent to 20 per cent lower.
Covered buggies.. . . . }	15 per cent lower.
Ploughs.. . . . }	\$10 each cheaper.
All agricultural implements.. . . . }	15 per cent higher.
Organs.. . . . }	10 per cent to 25 per cent less.
Sewing machines (with business trebled)..	Higher.
Boots and shoes and leather goods, hand made..	Lower.
Boots and shoes and leather goods, factory made	A little higher.
Furniture, best class.. . . . }	9 per cent higher (equivalent to increased cost of pig iron and labour).
Furniture, ordinary class.. . . . }	Cheaper.
Stoves.. . . . }	5 per cent lower.
Iron castings.. . . . }	9 per cent lower.
Tools and files.. . . . }	12 per cent lower.
Cut nails.. . . . }	\$2 per ton lower.
Finished nails.. . . . }	Cheaper.
Pressed spikes.. . . . }	8 per cent higher.
Railway spikes.. . . . }	5 cents to 6 cents per pound cheaper.
Nuts and bolts.. . . . }	50 cents per 100 pounds cheaper.
Horse shoes.. . . . }	10 per cent cheaper.
Tea.. . . . }	Duty and price unchanged.
Sugar.. . . . }	12 per cent higher, owing to increase in raw material entering duty free.
Molasses.. . . . }	
Rice.. . . . }	
Spices.. . . . }	
Soap.. . . . }	

The effect of the increase in the tariff duties was this: There was an actual reduction in the cost of living of from 5 per cent

[Mr. Ladner.]

to 10 per cent on the articles named. I say, Mr. Speaker, that this was an experiment; the conditions of 1878 were not the conditions