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tion 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 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 the foreign leaf, 'T. and 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, Quebec, 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

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