

## TARIFF CHANGES.

Ottawa, May 25.—When Hon. W. S. Fielding, minister of finance, moved the house into committee this afternoon, he explained the amendments which he proposed to make in the original tariff, as introduced by him five weeks ago. The financial minister announced some fifty amendments, of which the following are the more important—original tariff, as below, means the tariff as introduced by Mr. Fielding:

Soap, pearl and other soap powders; original tariff, 30 per cent.; amended tariff, 35 per cent.

The tariff on books has been changed so as to divide them into two classes. The late tariff on books was six cents a pound. The Fielding tariff as introduced placed the duty at 20 per cent. The amended tariff reads as follows: Novels or literature of similar character, unbound or paper bound, not to include Christmas annuals or publications commonly known as juvenile and toy books, 20 per cent. Books, printed as periodicals and pamphlets, n.e.s., not to include blank account books, copy books, 10 per cent. On the free list are placed all books on the application of offices to industries of all kinds, including books on agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fish and fishing, mining, metallurgy, architecture, electric and other engineering, carpentry, ship building, mechanism, dyeing, bleaching, tanning, weaving, and other mechanical arts, and similar industrial books, and for public and universal libraries, colleges or schools. It is provided that importers of books, who have sold the same for use in a library, may receive a refund of duty paid.

Advertising and printed matter on which under the old tariff a specific duty was imposed, was placed at 35 per cent in the original Fielding tariff. He now returns to a specific tariff of 15 cents a pound.

Printed music, 25 per cent in the original Fielding tariff is reduced to 10 per cent.

Partly printed newspapers, 20 per cent in the original tariff, increased to 25 per cent.

On medicines the original tariff placed a duty of 35 per cent on liquids and 25 per cent on others. The amended tariff is 50 per cent on liquid medicine containing alcohol and 25 per cent on all others.

Linseed oil, lard oil, etc., is raised from 20 per cent to 25 per cent in the amended resolution.

The item of coal dust in the original has been changed back to read as it was in the late government's tariff. Grindstones, over twelve inches, 20 per cent in the original tariff, are changed to 15 per cent.

The same change is made in rough granite.

Freestone and all building stone and blocks of marble, marble and granite sawn only, flagstone and building stone dressed, 20 per cent.

Roofing slate remains at 25 per cent with a proviso that the duty shall not exceed 75 cents per square. Plate glass, not bevelled, in sheets 5 pairs; original tariff 30 per cent; amended 35 per cent, when exceeding 5 square feet each; otherwise 25 per cent.

Silvered glass, original tariff 30 per cent, amended 35 per cent.

Iron or steel scrap. The original tariff reduced the duty from \$4.00 to

\$1.50. The amended tariff reduces it still further to \$1.00 per ton.

Iron or steel ingots, puddled bars, etc., which were \$4.00 a ton in the original tariff are \$2.00 in the amended tariff.

Rolled iron or steel angles, girders, bridge sections, etc.; original tariff 15 per cent; amended 10 per cent.

Bridge plates of steel. Original tariff 15 per cent; amended to 10 per cent.

Rolled iron or steel plates, not less than 30 inches in width, original tariff 15 per cent; amended 10 per cent.

Item 225 is amended so that steel, rolled or hammered, when of greater value than 2 1-2 cents per pound, will be 5 per cent.

Iron or steel bridges and structural work, original tariff 30 per cent; amended 35 per cent.

Tubes of rolled steel, not more than 1 1-2 inches in diameter, and bicycle tubes; original tariff 15 per cent; amended 10 per cent.

On cut nails and spikes a specific duty of half a cent per pound is imposed instead of 30 per cent in the original Fielding tariff.

On wire nails a specific duty of 3-5 of a cent per pound is placed instead of 35 per cent in the original Fielding tariff. When these two items were put on the ad valorem list the finance minister claimed credit for making a reform. He has thought better of it and restored the specific duty, though at a lower rate than the old one.

Buckthorn and ship fencing; original tariff 25 per cent; amended 20 per cent.

Wire covered with cotton or other material; original tariff 25 per cent; amended 30 per cent.

Wire of all metals or kinds; original tariff 20 per cent; amended; brass wire, 10 per cent, woven wire, 25 per cent.

Scrap lead; original tariff 20 per cent; amended 15 per cent.

Iron or steel nut washers, rivets, etc., original tariff 35 per cent; amended, 3-4 of a cent a lb., and 25 per cent.

Stereotypes, electrotypes, etc., for almanacs and advertising purposes; original tariff 2 cents per square inch, amended 1 1-2 cents.

Stereotypes for newspaper columns, original tariff 3-8 of a cent, per square inch; amended 1-4 cent.

Veneers of woods; original tariff 10 per cent; amended 7 1-2 per cent.

Jeans, sateens, etc., when imported by corset makers; original tariff, 30 per cent; amended, 20 per cent.

Two sub-clauses are made in item 369, reducing cotton and other cloths for use in the manufacture of umbrellas and neck ties, when these are cut into shape in bond, to 20 per cent, and reducing stockinettes for the manufacture of rubber boots and slippers to 15 per cent; also placing cotton duck at 22 1-2 per cent.

In item 375, a sub-clause makes the duty on worsted tops from wools which are grown in Canada, 15 per cent. Woollen and worsted yarns, costing 30 cents or over per lb., imported by manufacturers, 20 per cent. This is a change in the classification, and a reduction.

Nitroglycerine, when imported for the manufacture of explosives, 10 per cent, instead of 3 cents a lb., as in the original tariff.

Buttons are divided into two classes. Pantaloons buttons wholly of metal and shoe buttons being placed at 25 per

cent, instead of 35 per cent, as at first proposed.

Twine and cordage; original Fielding tariff, 20 per cent; amended to 25 per cent.

Cut tobacco; 50 cents per lb. and 12 1-2 per cent; amended 55 cents. Other manufactured tobacco; original tariff, 45 cents per lb. and 12 1-2 per cent; amended 50 cents a lb. The tariff as introduced by Mr. Fielding imposed an excise duty of 10 cents a lb. on raw leaf tobacco unstemmed and 14 cents on stemmed. It is proposed to change on the 1st of July to a customs duty of the same amount. The excise duties to be collected on all goods now in bond.

The remarks made by Mr. Fielding show that the intention of levying the excise duty in the first two or three months was to catch the importer who had endeavored to forestall the tariff by buying in a stock of raw tobacco.

Excise duties on cigarettes remain at \$3 per thousand as proposed, but only \$1.50 is to be levied on cigarettes made from native grown tobacco.

An important change is proposed in the item of mining machinery. The late government made free all mining machinery of a class not made in Canada. Mr. Fielding placed all mining machinery on the free list. In the amended resolution he goes back to the late government's system, except that he enumerates the machinery which he leaves dutiable and that which is made free.

A change is made in the preferential clause to provide that the government will extend the reciprocal tariff to any country which may be entitled to the same by virtue of any treaty with Her Majesty.

An amendment is also proposed to the combine clause which requires the decision of a court as to the fact of a combination before the government can have power to act in the premises.

At the evening sitting Sir Charles Tupper replied to the speech of the finance minister, denouncing the government's bungling effort as a complete back down on their policy of only a few weeks ago. Mr. Fielding's temporary distinction and eminence was passed away and so was the preferential tariff, so called. It was a complete justification of what he had said, that Canada could not withdraw from the application of the imperial treaties. The late tariff was nothing short of a declaration of independence. In any case the effect would be fatal to Canadian interests. He moved in conclusion the following amendment.

That in the opinion of this house the reduction by 25 per cent. of the duties upon the imports, except wine, malt liquors, spirits, spirituous liquors, liquid medicines and articles containing alcohol, sugar, molasses and syrups of all kinds, the product of the sugar cane or beet root, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, in favor of any country whose tariff is or may be made on the whole as low as that of schedule (D), is calculated to imperil the industrial interests of Canada and is a principle opposed to preferential trade of any kind with the Mother Country.

That on several occasions the government and parliament of Canada have requested Her Majesty to be pleased to take such steps as might be necessary to terminate the effect of the provisions of all treaties which prevent the parliament of the United Kingdom and the self governing colonies adopting such tariffs as may be required for the promotion of trade within the empire, but