

and the masses do not feel them, and they are no burdens on the people. He says the fishermen and all industrial classes are less taxed than they ever were before. The fishermen's needs (meaning, I suppose, the requirements of their industries) are not taxed.

My hon. friend from Lunenburg dwelt very considerably on the favor with which the Government had dealt with the fisheries under the National Policy. The bounty system is not part of the protective tariff at all. I fancy that that boon was given to the fishermen largely because of their share of the fisheries award, and no doubt in that way it was some benefit to them. But if given to them as compensation for the losses they sustain under the high protective tariff, they are not at all recompensed, and I question whether it is a fair compensation for their share of the award. So, taking it either way, they are scarcely recompensed by the small bounty which they have been in the habit of receiving. I have been favored with letters from fishermen in Grand Manan, and I hope I will be pardoned for giving the expressions of practical men rather than my own opinions on these subjects, because those engaged in those departments of trade know more on subjects with which they have to deal than we can know, and when the hon. gentleman from Lunenburg rises in this Chamber, and says that the fishermen are more contented because their requirements for the fishing industry are not subject to taxation, and also from the consideration and favor shown to them, I am satisfied that he does not speak the sentiments of the fishermen of Lunenburg.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I have a large interest in the industry myself.

HON. MR. McCLELAN—I have no doubt the hon. gentleman has and finds it remunerative, so far as he is concerned; but if these correspondents are correct, there must be some discrepancy between his views and theirs. These correspondents are reliable, respectable fishermen. I will read an extract from a letter from one of them, dated Grand Manan, February 22, 1885:—

"As regards the tariff, no one can say there is one redeeming feature in it, as regards the

fishing interests—excepting fish-hooks, lines and nets, as they come from the machines—the duty on everything else the fisherman uses has been gradually increased in almost every case. Lines, nets and hooks, if duty was 25 to 35 per cent., would not add a great deal more to the burden, as the cost of them is very small now-a-days. The poorest fisherman, the one who needs it most, gets somewhere about \$2.60 bounty from our Government; the one rich enough to own vessels gets more, of course. The man getting \$2.60 will wear out two pairs of rubber boots in the year, at least, and more if he fishes in the winter, which cost in the States \$3.50; duty 25 per cent., making 87½ cents; traders' 20 per cent. profit on cost, 17½ cents more, makes the boots cost the fisherman \$1.05 per pair more than they should, which, if he uses two pairs of boots only, will leave him 50 cents out of his \$2.60 so kindly given him by the paternal Government. Three gallons of kerosene oil will swallow up the rest, by the increased cost from the effects of duty on it. Then he stands square with the Government. After that, all the rest is one way—the manilla cordage, sails for his boat, pork, lard, etc. There is no use enumerating. Everything he uses is increased in cost by the protective tariff, whether made abroad or at home.

"It is a Government that evidently is trying to conciliate the proprietor of what they expect will be their home in the next world, as they tax Bibles and prayer-books, and admit Brimstone free.

"The incorrigible Sabbath-school scholar, if he persists in it, must pay 30 per cent. on the cards he or she uses: but the meek and holy gambler, the devotional whist and euchre player (if he buys a bang-up article), only pays from 6 to 12 per cent. for his cards: Thoughtful fathers of our country! On free list are: Fish-hooks and diamonds, agates and fish-nets, emeralds and cod-lines, rubies, pearls, sapphires, garnets, and pure-bred dogs; opals, fur-skins—but not oilskin clothing for the poor mariner. But I won't enumerate further.

HON. MR. PLUMB—Why does he not buy his rubber boots in Canada, where he can get them cheaper?

HON. MR. HOWLAN—Canvas and duck are manufactured at Yarmouth, in Nova Scotia.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I am surprised that my hon. friend would take up the time of the House reading such nonsense as that letter contains.

HON. MR. McCLELAN—I will read another letter which perhaps will be more pleasing to my hon. friend. This is dated 17th February 1885:—