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CUSTOMS RULINGS.

FOLLOWING are the Customs rulings affecting the tariff promulgated since our last issue:

Frillings and edgings, whether of cotton, silk or other material, are properly dutiable under item 197 of the tariff, at the rate of 30 per cent. ad valorem, though the edges of the same may be either bound or stitched. The provisions of previous memoranda so far as they relate to these goods are rescinded.

Cardigan jackets are properly dutiable under the terms of item 215 of the tariff—"knitted goods"—at the rate of ten cents per pound and 20 per cent. ad valorem. The fact that such jackets have button holes worked in them, and that the edges are bound, does not take them out of the category of knitted goods as mentioned in such item.

The value of sash weights, depending as it does upon the value of pig iron, has been found to fluctuate so largely that the values for these articles given in memorandum of June 10, 1891, are no longer applicable. Therefore, in the entry of sash weights, where there is no reason to doubt the correctness of values as shown in the invoices, such values are to be accepted for duty.

MR. FOSTER AND HIS CRITIC.

ONE of the worst cases of "slop over" that has developed since the Minister of Finance and his coadjutors set out in their investigations regarding the operations of the tariff, occurs in an editorial in the Monetary Times. It proclaims that in this investigation people look for indications of a policy which may enable intelligent observers to note whether a reasonable degree of harmony exists between the Minister and what it calls the predominant sentiment, which demands a revision of the tariff in the direction of the revenue standard: and it points to what Mr. Foster said before the Sir John Macdonald Club at Montreal, that the principle of a protective tariff must be maintained, and that alterations were to be made only in details. This is the gist of Mr. Foster's offence to the Monetary Times. It forgets that the party of which Mr. Foster is so prominent a member was elected to power, and to assume the reins of Government on a platform of which protection was the chief plank. It not only forgets this, but it wants Mr Foster to forget it also. It wants him to stultify himself by going back on his friends, and allowing his political enemies to dictate a policy for him. It assumes that because the conditions of the country are changed somewhat from what they were when the existing tariff was made, necessitating some modifications of it, that the sentiment of the whole people had changed, and that, instead of being adherents of a policy of protection, they are now all the other way, and clamorous for a revenue reform which would be a short cut to free trade. Having assumed these things it is vexed that Mr. Foster does not see eye to eye with it, and because he does not its wrath carries it beyond all decent bounds. It tells us that if Mr. Foster is to continue in his present office as Minister of Finance, the divergence between the growing sentiment in favor of a revenue tariff and the position of the Government must continue to increase; that his party is no longer practically a unit in favor of protection, and that he fails to see that a large body of agriculturists, without respect to party allegiance, demand a modification of the tariff in the direction of free trade. Pray who is this king-maker who suggests the retirement of the Minister, because he does not happen to recognize what his critic calls a growing sentiment in favor of free trade? What manner of eyes has he that he can discern a condition which does not exist? By what means has he discovered that the party upon which the Government relies is no longer a unit in favor of protection,

The smartness that characterizes these assumptions impels our contemporary to still further assume and declare that the object of the tour which the Minister of Finance is making through the country is to interrogate the manufacturers, the beneficiaries of protection, as to how much of it will be adequate for their purposes and that he goes to them as a devoted partisan bound by his own declarations to decide in their favor. This is quite insulting to Mr. Foster. It is insulting in that Mr. Foster did not set out in his investigations as a partisan or special friend of the manufactures: and it is insulting because no honest, honorable man would stultify himself by promising, when acting as a judge, to make declarations that his decisions would be in the interest of any party whatever. This is where the Monetary Times is insulting