

that, in view of the promises made by the Government and the statements furnished by them years ago, that, instead of having a stationary public debt, we would have to-day the public debt reduced by \$70,000,000. The hon. gentleman next congratulated the Finance Minister upon the reduction in the price of sugar, and that is about the only item in which there is a reduction; and he attacked the hon. member for South Oxford because that hon. gentleman could not swallow all the Finance Minister said on this question. It is no doubt amusing to notice how, year after year, different hon. gentlemen opposite are put up to answer the hon. member for South Oxford, and how each year the greater portion of their speeches is made up of denunciations of that hon. gentleman. The hon. member for South Oxford, according to the hon. gentleman, is fast losing any influence he had in the country, and fast becoming very harmless indeed; and in view of this statement, I could not help thinking what a waste of time it was for a gentleman of the transcendent abilities and statesman-like power of my hon. friend to quote the utterances, and to quote them in a disconnected manner, of the man who has ceased to exercise any influence in the country at all. The hon. gentleman would have done better, with his brilliant mind and his lofty ideas of statesmanship, to have given us an outline of what he considered is the policy that should be adopted by the country. He was particularly angry at the hon. member for South Oxford because that hon. gentleman was not prepared to admit what the Finance Minister gave us to understand, until his remark was challenged, that his proposition was to throw off the whole of the tax upon sugar consumed by the people. But when questioned on that point, we found he had endeavoured to create a false impression, and my hon. friend from South Oxford pointed out that, though it was true there was a reduction in the taxation, that reduction was to be upon the amount of duty that went into the revenue, while the taxation imposed upon the people for years and which did not go into the public treasury at all was still allowed to go into the pockets of the refiners. Is not that true? The hon. gentleman says the whole of the \$3,500,000 is thrown off, and he says is it absolutely immaterial if there is some protection left to the refiner, because, he says, the great bulk of sugar, namely, all the raw sugars under No. 14, comes in free. I recognize that fact. The hon. gentleman talked about Cuban crystals, and about the sugar that would come in free. Why, does he not know that that grade of sugar was comparatively low before, and the Finance Minister gloried in the fact that, through the arrangement of that tariff, only 6 per cent. of the sugars consumed by the people was imported by way of raw sugar, and that 94 per cent. was refined sugar. Yet, he says that the great proportion of sugar to be used by the people in the coming year is to be raw sugars under 14 degrees Dutch standard.

Mr. WELDON. Sugar 14 degrees Dutch standard is free now.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). The hon. gentleman knows it was not taxed as high as the refined sugar. Now, this talking about No. 14 Dutch standard, is, to many members of this House, something which they cannot be expected to understand.

They are not in the sugar business, and, therefore cannot be expected to understand it.

Mr. BOWELL. It is Dutch to us.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Then I will put it into English. In order that the House might understand this matter—because it is desirable that this question should be understood, and that the House should see whether all the glory with which the Finance Minister would fain surround himself is fairly due to him, and if it is justly due to him, I will be the first to give it to him, but I want the country to understand what his position is in regard to this matter—I went over to the Customs Department, knowing that they had some new samples by which they test the importation of sugar. I found that they had some new samples in and that they had some old samples left. Of course, I could not get the new samples, but I took some of the old samples and I have here a sample of No. 14 which has become somewhat bleached by process of time, and I have also samples of No. 15 and No. 16. The result of time is that No. 14 is rather lighter than it would be if now imported. I brought these to the House in order to allow hon. members to see the distinction between these different numbers. Here I have No. 14 Dutch standard sugar, which has been bleached by the operation of time till it is at least half a number lighter in colour than the real No. 14 Dutch standard by which they will test the samples of sugar imported. The hon. gentleman says: I have given you a free breakfast-table, I have given you free tea, free coffee and free sugar. If so, if that is the kind of sugar which is to be on the breakfast-table, I venture to say that none of it will be found on the table of the Finance Minister to put into his tea.

Mr. FOSTER. You are mistaken. That is the kind I take.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). If so, if that is what goes on the table of the Finance Minister, I do not want the poorest man in this country to have to take that sugar for the benefit of a few sugar refiners.

Mr. BOWELL. I would ask my hon. friend if nearly all the muscovadoes that come into this country are not under No. 14, and if they are not used very largely throughout the whole country?

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). No; and if the Finance Minister is willing to do what is right in this matter let him do what he said when he was interrupted by the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) who asked him a question as to his not taking off the duty altogether on sugar. The hon. gentleman then said that when the United States reduced their duties, they retained duties above a certain standard for the benefit of the refiners, and therefore we should do the same. Let me tell him that the United States, a country which hon. gentlemen opposite say is protected far beyond the protection which Canada has, a country which is protected to a wonderful extent, when it reduced the duties on sugar, made raw sugars free under No. 16, that is two numbers lighter than the free sugar that we are to have. The hon. gentleman knows that our refiners would not allow us to go as far as the Americans did, to make raw sugar free at No. 16 and under, as they did, because