

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Well, nothing has been heard, or, at all events, nothing was suggested this Session in reference to this real or supposed report of Mr. Walsh.

Mr. MILLS. The hon. gentleman will see that he was in charge of the Department at the time Major Walsh was ordered to desist from the work in which he was engaged and to return to his post on the police force. It must therefore have been done by the hon. gentleman.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes, but in 1879.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE TARIFF.

House again resolved itself into Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

Winceys.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I propose a substitution. The original proposition was that costume cloths, serges and similar fabrics under 25 inches wide should be charged 25 per cent. *ad valorem*, and winceys of all kinds 25 per cent. *ad valorem*. I propose to strike out those two items and substitute the following:—

Checked, striped or fancy cotton winceys over twenty-five inches wide a specific duty of two cents per square yard and fifteen per cent. *ad valorem*.

This alteration is, I think, not a change from the Act as it now stands. At present all these goods not over a quarter wool are subject to precisely the same duty. Great difficulties have arisen in many of the ports and in the entry in the Custom house to ascertain whether the goods were over a fourth wool or under. This is intended to remove that difficulty.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Why do you introduce the word "cotton?" Will not that add to the difficulty? It might be considered to refer to all cotton.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. They do make winceys all cotton as well as of wool.

Mr. BLAKE. As you now have it, is it intended to embrace only those which are cotton, and to omit those which have any admixture of wool at all?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. As it stands at present, any wincey that is cotton or not over one-fourth wool pays this duty. This is to remove the words, "not over one-fourth wool."

Mr. BLAKE. It will simply apply to plain cotton?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. To plain cotton winceys. Then

All fabrics composed wholly or in part of wool, worsted, the hair of the Alpaca goat or other like animals, not otherwise provided for, twenty-two and a half per cent. *ad valorem*.

Winceys of all kinds, not otherwise provided for, twenty-two and a half per cent. *ad valorem*.

At present all fabrics composed wholly or in part of wool, worsted, etc., pay 20 per cent. It is proposed to make that 22½ per cent. Those not otherwise provided for it is proposed to make 22½ per cent., instead of 2 cents a square yard and 15 per cent., as at present, and then there are some that are under the class of woollen goods. The ground for changing the proposition as before stated is that, in communication with representatives of the trade in some of the larger ports, it was suggested that the difficulties they had had in the past would be entirely removed if we would adopt a uniform rate under these three items, for instance the difficulties as to custom goods as compared with winceys. After hearing their arguments and the reasons they submitted, the Government decided to ask the House to amend the original proposition in this respect.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What is the range of value in these cotton winceys?

Mr. MILLS.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. That I do not know. It is a cheap range of value.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. That is a matter of some moment as the hon. gentleman will see. A specific duty per square yard may amount to 10 or 20 or 30 per cent.—I merely use that as an illustration—according to the value of the cotton wincey on which it is imposed. In all the other cases he has an *ad valorem* duty which, I am inclined to think, the trade to the contrary notwithstanding would have been fairer to the consumer. There are several distinct interests in this matter—the trade, the consumer, the manufacturer, and the revenue. The hon. gentleman will see that two cents per square yard necessarily may vary very much according to the range and value of these winceys. That is the reason I wanted to know what the range was.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Still, the new proposition does not change that materially; it simply strikes out the words "not over a fourth." Therefore, the value was not materially changed. But the hon. gentleman will see the difficulty that would arise in ascertaining whether it was over a fourth. The fact is winceys of that kind have but a small quantity of wool in them.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I know that wincey, properly speaking, consists of a mixture of cotton and wool, and the cotton wincey is a much less valuable article—if I am correctly informed, as I am not an expert myself—than a wincey composed of cotton and wool together; so that there is a more material change in this than would appear at first sight. I cannot speak with any certainty, but I have been given to understand that in many cases this might range to a duty of 35 per cent. as against a duty of 22½ per cent. in other cases, and as against a duty of 25 per cent. which the hon. gentleman first intended to propose. I must say that, without minute information, I rather like his first proposal better than his second one.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. There is no proposition to change the duty at all.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The proposition he made originally was that winceys of all kinds should be 25 per cent. *ad valorem*; now the proposition is that winceys of one particular kind shall pay 22½ per cent. If winceys come under No. 2 they would also pay 22½ per cent.—perhaps they do not. It appears now that in cases between No. 1 and 3 there is room for considerable discrimination against cotton winceys as compared with his original proposition of 25 per cent. I am inclined to think that in a good many cases a duty of 2 cents per square yard will bring this up practically to 35 per cent., perhaps more. Has the hon. gentleman any definite information on that point?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. No, I have not at this moment. I would state that there is no doubt that winceys proper, such as have been imported, are not like the winceys in the olden times, which were a mixture of wool and cotton. That is the only proper wincey. Still, an article made entirely of cotton has been for a number of years imported and entered as winceys. But the hon. gentleman will notice that there is no change whatever in the duty upon winceys proper, that is, containing over one-quarter wool, subject at present to the wool duty. There is no proposition to change that at all; the only change is in the direction of ascertaining with more certainty the quantity of wool.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I do not know, as a matter of fact, but it is very likely, judging from the way in which the trade usually avail themselves of these details, that in future you will find a lot of goods which in old times might have been called cotton winceys now coming in under