

this Tariff as he sees it, said: that if a farmer visited one of the dry goods stores, and bought a dress for his wife, he would have to send out of the nine or twelve yards he would buy three or four yards up to Ottawa. One farmer who was present said: "that is not true, because I take what I buy home to my wife; I send none to Ottawa." However, he was speaking figuratively, like my hon. friend from Brant. Many gentlemen and some ladies who were present at his meetings, said that the main point made by him against the Tariff was with reference to woollen goods. He said that the poor man would be compelled to pay 40 per cent. duty and upwards, and the rich man but 25 or 27 per cent. I have taken some pains to write to different parties who could furnish me with reliable information with reference to the price of woollen goods; and a gentleman sent to me, at the request of a friend, a letter, of which he authorized me to make any use I thought proper. I stated to the gentleman, to whom I wrote among others, that I wished reliable data—data that could not be shaken by any statements of fact that could be produced in the House—because we wanted nothing but the facts, and if the manufacturers were getting large profits, it was just as well that we should know it, and deal with the facts as we found them. This letter I received from Cantlie, Ewan & Co., of Montreal, who, I believe, have been for years engaged in selling woollen goods. It has reference to the price and value of certain descriptions of woollen goods made in Canada, compared with the prices of the same goods previous to the change in the Tariff. It is as follows:—

"1st. Etoffes, tweeds and fabrics made from Canada wools and used chiefly by farmers, laborers, shantymen and mechanics in country districts, are as low in price now as at any time during ten years previous to 1878. This refers to regular sales. No doubt during the very severe depression special lines may have been sold at a concession to force sales, but the average price of such goods, for 1880, 1881 and 1882, is lower than the average of ten years previous to 1878.

"2nd. Medium and fine wool fabrics made exclusively from imported wools and used by farmers, mechanics in cities and towns, and by the large mass of the population, were, in 1880 and 1881, and are now selling for 1882, at lower prices than at any previous time since these goods were made in Canada.

"The goods now made in Canada from fine and medium wools have improved very much in character as to fabric, color and finish, and ought on this account to bring more money instead of less.

"3rd. Flannels are now as low in price as at any time during the past fourteen years, except for a short time during 1877 and 1878, when, under the pressure of hard times, a break in price took place by the largest manufacturer of such goods attempting to run out the other smaller makers. This failed, and the price has since been steady. No advance has taken place, although wool supplies and wages all have advanced very considerably.

"4th. Blankets are as low in price now as they were any time during ten years previous to 1878. During 1880 they were lower in price than at any former time in Canada. Our Canadian wools were then very low in price, about 21 cents per lb.; since then wool suitable for blankets has averaged not less than 29 cents to 30 cents, and blankets have advanced in consequence. For last year and this present year prices are as low as any year since 1869. Being compelled by forcing competition to give up making blankets for 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, have no record of prices for these four years."

Mr. Speaker, that speaks strongly with reference to the price and value of the goods made in the Dominion of Canada largely from wool grown in Canada, and consumed by the masses of the people of Canada; and, as I stated in the early part of my speech, while the masses of the people have been buying their woollen goods at prices as low as they were before the change of the Tariff, it will be found by reference to the Trade Returns that we received \$411,000 more from the finer descriptions of woollen goods, worn by the wealthier people, than we did the year previous, and an average of from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 per cent. duty more than we did in 1878, from the consumers of the finer goods, showing clearly that, instead of the rich man getting his clothing cheaper and the poor man paying more as a rule, the poor man gets his clothing as cheap or cheaper than he did before, while the rich man has paid from 7 to 10 per cent. additional duty.

Mr. MILLS. Then Canada never was a sacrifice market.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Yes it was; that was the trouble. I asked one of the manufacturers: "How is it that, although wages are higher prices are lower?" He said to me: "The fact is we used to have to spend a large sum in employing runners to go throughout the country to make sales. We lost a large amount of interest on the stocks we had in hand and could not sell in spite of this increased expense; but now we have doubled our production, have orders ahead, our expenses of management have not increased, and we can sell at smaller profits than we could before, and yet in consequence of the increased production we have larger profits at the end of the year." Thus we see that, while we are building up these industries, the people are getting cheaper goods, and the manufacturers are making more money than they were before. Now, Sir, as I have dealt with the cotton and woollen goods worn by the masses of the people, I thought I would like to know how the case was with reference to the hats and caps made out of coarse woollen goods, felts, and other materials; and I addressed a letter to a gentleman in Montreal largely engaged in the manufacture of these articles—a gentleman who is, I believe, known to many hon. members of this House—Mr. E. K. Green. He, among others, sent me a reply, and which he said I might make whatever use I pleased; and as he speaks very strongly and decidedly with respect to the effect of this policy on prices, I give him as an authority on the subject. I know he is a somewhat prominent man in the city of Montreal.

Mr. MACKENZIE. A prominent Protectionist.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Yes; and he was, I believe, a supporter of hon. gentlemen opposite at one time.

Mr. MACKENZIE. He is yet.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Then, Sir, I present the testimony of a gentleman who sympathises with hon. gentlemen on the opposite side of the House, and who, under these circumstances, would not, except for the National Policy, maintain this Government in power.

Mr. MACKENZIE. The hon. gentleman is not fair. I said he is a decided Protectionist.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Exactly so. Then he could not have any political object in writing a letter like this. I said: "I believe you are engaged in the manufacture of hats and caps, and that class of material," the relative cost of which, to the consumer, I had not, up to that time, received any information about. I was under the impression that some caps, made from the coarse woollen goods, cost a little more, and I was anxious to get information on the subject, so I wrote to him.

Mr. MACKENZIE. What is the duty on hats and caps?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Twenty-five per cent. His reply was as follows:—

"HAMILTON, February 3rd, 1882.

"I have gone over and carefully compared the prices of the various lines of caps and felt hats manufactured by us in 1878 and 1881, and I find, as the result of my investigation, that the average selling price of our goods during the past year has been lower than in 1878, for the same class of goods. This is the case, not only in those lines of goods on which the advance of duty has been slight, but also applies to those coarse, heavy woollens, on which the duty has been considerably increased. These results have been attained by an increased protection of this class of goods, in consequence of the present Tariff, and by a natural law of manufactures, whereby a larger quantity of a given article can be produced and sold to the consumer at a less price than a smaller quantity of the same article. In other words, owing to the enlarged market afforded by protection, and the keenness of home competition, we are able to supply the country generally with coarse woollen caps and felt hats at lower prices under the present Tariff than in 1878, before it went into operation.

"As an importer, manufacturer, general merchant, of twenty-five years' experience, extending at present from Cape Breton to British