

There was one article that I omitted in the free list, cotton thread in hanks, coloured and unfinished, No. 6 ply, which we propose to remove from the free list to the 10 per cent. list. The duty on ales and porters is in fact a redistribution, a slight increase having been made in consequence of the duty we propose to impose on malt and on beer when manufactured in the country itself.

Now, to put the matter briefly, the net result is this, that while the revenue will certainly gain a considerable sum—probably between \$400,000 and \$500,000, (a sum which I think will be sufficient to make good any deficiency that is likely to arise next year, even should our imports remain at their present low figure) we will, at the same time, put an end to the mischievous practice of smuggling, which is beginning to prevail, and although we do take \$400,000 or \$500,000 out of the pockets of the people in one way, under the operation of the increased tariff, which I propose to impose, they will nevertheless gain \$800,000 by the remission of duties on petroleum. So that the net result to the people of Canada will not be an addition, but a direct and considerable diminution of the burdens under which they are at present labouring.

As regards our expectation of future revenue from these various sources,—we estimate the Customs duty likely to be received during the year of 1877-78 at something like \$18,600,000; our Excise duties, which of course are diminished by the loss of the duty on petroleum, at about \$5,800,000; and our other receipts substantially as in the year before—that is to say: Stamps, about \$250,000; Post Office, \$1,100,000; Public Works, \$1,750,000; and Miscellaneous, from various sources, about \$1,400,000,—making a total estimated income of \$28,400,000 for the year 1877-78. It will be seen, therefore, Mr. Speaker, that the Government has adhered strictly and rigidly to the policy they have heretofore laid down; that they are not disposed to add to the burdens of the people in any way or shape, unless the necessities of the revenue really require it at their hands. And, when we consider the depression which prevails elsewhere,—which prevails almost all over the civilized world, and notably in the neighbouring States—I think I have reasonable ground for saying to the House that after all, severe as the depression has been, much as we have suffered, we certainly have not suffered more,—it is a question whether we have suffered as much as the neighbouring people.