

particular article in question on the free list. That is the only possible way of getting at the combines, and I hope it will be successful and that it may be freely used. So much for some of the objections that have been urged by hon. gentlemen opposite.

I wish to point out some further special advantages arising out of the tariff, from my point of view. The tariff—apart from the resolutions to which I have been referring particularly—gives us the benefit of a 25 per cent lower duty on nearly all the goods we wish to import. Let me take the two items of cottons and woollens merely as examples. There is grumbling because the duties on certain lines of cottons have been raised a little. But these kinds of cottons can be purchased from Great Britain, which is the great cotton factory, and so it is not fair to say that as a matter of fact, the cotton duties have been increased when there will be a reduction of 25 per cent within a year on all cottons imported from England. Instead of the duty having been increased, it has really been decreased by reason of this 25 per cent, which will come into force a year from July 1st.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

Mr. CASEY. Then the hon. leader of the Opposition endorses that statement?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I call attention to it.

Mr. CASEY. Then the leader of the Opposition emphasizes this statement.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

Mr. CASEY. If the hon. gentleman is satisfied with the accuracy of that statement, he must have been mistaken the other night—

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

Mr. CASEY. I must be excused if I have confounded some other statement with his last speech, for the hon. gentleman has made so many contradictory utterances. The hon. gentleman said that this was the thin end of the wedge in the direction of free trade. I agree with the hon. gentleman that this is a step towards lower taxation; at the same time, I am satisfied that the reduction of 25 per cent on cottons imported from England is not a greater reduction than should be made, and is perhaps not as much reduction as should be granted.

It has been possible to make combines in cottons; it has not been found possible to make combines in woollen goods, which I chose for my other illustration. Woollen goods have, therefore, not been so close a monopoly as cottons; at the same time, the duties on the cheaper goods have been so enormous as to be practically prohibitive, and the producers of cheap woollen cloths have had the market almost entirely to themselves. Woollen manufacturers state that

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this 25 per cent reduction, which will come into force a year from now, will create considerable competition on the part of English manufacturers in regard to the cheaper classes of goods required by our people who are not over-rich, and will remove the scandal of duties reaching 50, 60, 70 or 100 per cent, which were hidden under the form of specific duties.

Then leaving those particular items, I desire to call attention for a moment or two to the great general advantage of the fiscal course that has been pursued by the Government. The encouragement of importations will, first, give some increase of revenue. It is quite clear that prohibitive taxes yield no revenue, and that allowing importations by making slight reductions in the tariff will furnish revenue. Second, it will change the course of trade, directing its course largely to trans-Atlantic countries rather than towards the people on this continent. Apart altogether from any feeling of loyalty, let us see what advantages it will give us. When we trade with the United States, our carriers get comparatively small profits. When our trade is across the ocean, we furnish trade to Canadian vessels both ways across the Atlantic. The high freights on exports to England during the past eighteen years have been largely caused by the fact that the ships have had freights only one way, and the result has been a high rate for our cattle, cheese and other products. Once you establish a stream of importations from England, you at the same time reduce the cost of exports from Canada.

As an advertisement for Canada, the publicity recently acquired is something for which it is worth while to pay a large amount, instead of getting it free, as we are doing, along with other benefits derived from the tariff. One instance of the value of this advertisement has been brought to our notice to-day in the reference to Rudyard Kipling's poem. Correspondents of the New York papers have declared that for the first time in many years Canada is attracting attention in England, and is being talked about. All the display we can make in the Jubilee procession, with our military and everything else, will not do one-twentieth as much to advertise the Dominion in Great Britain as a field for the investment of capital and for immigration, as the reduction in our tariff, made in England's favour. It will touch every business man in England and lead him to know that there is such a country as Canada, that it is a good place for investment and as a market for goods. It will induce immigration and capital to come here. One argument used in favour of the National Policy in the old days was that millions of English capital were waiting to be invested here so soon as it was definitely known that the fiscal policy of the country was protection to Canadian manufacturers. Like so many other promises made by hon. gentlemen opposite,