# WAYS AND MEANS-THE TARIFF-Con.

reasonable prices to the people, and so I bring these points to their attention as showing that there is something wrong, particularly with regard to flour, one of the necessities of life, 79.

### Knowles, W. E. (Moosejaw)-78.

Refers to and quotes telegram sent by secretary of Moosejaw labour council to the Prime Minister. I trust the Prime Minister will realize how very vital and important it is for the Government to use every piece of machinery that it possesses and to leave no stone unturned for the purpose of keeping to the ultimate consumer the food products at as low a figure as possible, 78.

#### Macdonald, E. M. (Pictou)-70.

With regard to the item which the minister says is a consequential item relating to sugar, I would say, not in any captious way, but from the feeling that the duty on sugar will of necessity affect the homes of the poor to a very great degree, that, while I give to the minister the fullest possible consideration, in view of the haste which necessarily compelled the Govern-ment to summon Parliament to consider its measures, I feel that there are many other avenues from which revenue might be derived which would bear less heavily upon the homes of the poor people of this country than this particular item and the consequential items which follow, 70. Has the minister considered the question as to what revenue could be obtained by the imposition of a duty upon fancy matches? That has been made the subject of a war tax in many countries Then, again, I am sure that the minister must have considered the wisdom of imposing an export duty upon pulpwood and pulp, 73.

Maclean, A. K. (Halifax)-79.

I desire to say a word in regard to the sugar duties in addition to what has been said by others. I doubt very much that the Government will receive the revenue from sugar which they have in mind, and I doubt also that the imposition of an increased sugar tax at this time will meet with favour in the country, 79. I regret that the Government have sought additional revenue from this source, 80.

McCoig, A. B. (Kent West)-75.

If the Minister would consider a further tax on the raw leaf tobacco coming into this country, he would not only receive the revenue which he is anxious to get, but would be encouraging an industry which up to the present time has largely been discouraged in the counties of Essex, Kent and Elgin, and I would be very glad if the minister would give this matter some consideration, 75.

## Michaud, Pius (Victoria, N.B.)-80.

I hope that the Prime Minister, having heard hon, gentlemen express the opinion that a tax on sugar will not be favourably looked upon by the poorer people of this

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country, will remember this question and decide not to impose any such tax, 80.

Murphy, Hon. Charles (Russell)-74.

Draws attention to a circular letter sent out by the Agricultural College at Guelph, parts of which he quotes, and asks if facts set forth have been drawn to the attention of the Minister of Finance, 73-4.

Nesbitt, E. W. (Oxford North)-78.

I would be very glad if the Minister of Finance could see his way not to impose a duty on sugar. Sugar is not a luxury in Ontario; it is practically a staple food. All the families that I know use sugar to a very great extent, and they will feel this duty as rather a hardship. I trust that the Minister of Finance will not have to keep this large duty on sugar for any length of time, and that he will find some other method of raising revenues, 78.

Proulx, E. (Prescott)-74.

The Canadian manufacturer of sugar will now have the advantage over the foreign manufacturer; he will enjoy the protection and the consumer will not get the benefit, 74.

Turgeon, O. (Gloucester)-75.

Sugar is a necessary food which cannot be replaced except by other ingredients which are more costly. I was surprised to hear the hon. Minister of Finance say yesterday that sugar had been among the very first articles to be taxed, 75.

White, Hon. W. T. (Minister of Finance)-70.

This tariff is not for the purpose of raising a revenue, but is what is called a consequential change by reason of the in-crease of the duty upon sugar, 70. We are in the initial stage only of what may be a long-drawn-out war, although we all hope that it will not be; and it may be that the Government will have to take many important measures to meet the conditions that may lie before us. For the present it is my object to devise such expedients that the taxation which we now lay upon the people will be moderate and general in character. The fiscal measures which I proposed yesterday will cast upon the people of Canada for the year only a small fraction of our increased expenditure. The people military of Canada will desire, without exception, some measure, even if only in a small measure, each according to his means, to contribute directly towards this expenditure which the Government is compelled to make for the defence of Canada and the preservation of the Empire. I believe, therefore, that the taxation we have imposed will not be adversely criticized throughout Canada, 71. We gave the matter some consideration and reached the conclusion that it is not expedient to impose an excise duty on sugar. The matter will equalize itself in time. No tariff change can be made of an important character that does not work an