

Since 1870 have enjoyed protection against all except triple vinegar, one gallon of which, after paying Customs duty of ten cents per gallon, may, by the addition of three gallons of water, be made into four gallons low grade vinegar. Canadian manufacturers would therefore require a Customs duty of twelve cents per gallon to be on a par with triple vinegar manufacturers.

Since the period mentioned (1870), on account of the protection then granted, the business has been so much developed that better vinegar is sold now than then, and at from twenty-five to thirty per cent. less, with better profits.

Asks to have the courts open to manufacturers holding licenses under the Excise Department, by giving right of replevin, the same as in ordinary Sheriff's seizure.

The law, as it now stands, places a man who may have innocently, or otherwise, contravened it, in the position of having his goods seized by an interested excise officer, and the case kept from trial by the department (virtually the said excise officer), which often does not take place until the defendant is either ruined or ready to compromise.

American tariff, 10 cents per gallon. Canadian tariff, 10 cents per gallon.

SCALE MAKERS.

Manufacturers cannot successfully compete with the American goods thrown on this market to kill our infant manufactures. There seems to be a prejudice against the Canadian manufacturer, although they say the home-made article is equal in every respect to the imported one: even the Government use imported scales on the public works, although an equal article of home manufacture is offered at a lower price than has been paid by the Government for the last five years.

All ask for a fair protection of from twenty to thirty per cent.; the same establishments could turn out four or five-times more goods than at present if any encouragement were given.

American tariff, 35 per cent. Canadian tariff, 17½ per cent.

Examination of A. W. Barber, Streetsville, Woollen Manufacturer.

How long have you been in business?—Since 1844, at Streetsville. I commenced in 1837, and have been carrying on a woollen business for upwards of thirty-five years.

How many hands do you employ?—About 150.

What special complaint have you of the operation of the custom laws so far as your business is concerned?—From the depressed state of the Canadian market on woollen goods we want the old tariff of twenty per cent.

Would that affect your prices?—We think the increase of five per cent. will not increase the price of the goods.

Where does your competition come from?—England. The manufacturers there send over a cheap article called shoddy, which costs about 1s. 6d., to the great detriment of this market. They take our patterns, and in many cases even put our card on.

Do you pay any duty on your raw material?—No; unless, perhaps, on a few drugs, used in dyeing, which I believe are affected by the new tariff.

Chairman:—No; there is no alteration in dye stuffs.

You use a large amount of machinery; is that protected now?—Yes: there has been a duty on machinery.

Are not many of your machines built in this country, or are they all brought in?—They could be built in this country. We build all our own ourselves.

Is there no general manufactory for looms, &c., in the country?—Golden & McCulloch, I believe, is the only one.

If the machines you use were manufactured in the country, if the protection were increased in reference to that, would you not have to pay a higher price for them?—No.

Do you export?—No.

Where are the goods imported from that come into competition?—From England. No competition with the States since the war.