

THE TARIFF

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT moved that the report of the Committee of Ways and Means be received.—Carried.

On motion for the second reading of the resolutions,

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL said that looking at the facts of the case, the power of the Government, etc., it would be only a waste of time to oppose these resolutions. He was glad that the resolutions had been modified but regretted that they had not gone a little further. The results arrived at had been influenced in a great measure by the moral power of the little band on this side of the House.

He entered his protest against the statement of the Minister of Finance that his increased taxation had been caused by the late government. The arguments of the hon. member for Cumberland (Hon. Mr. Tupper) had in no way been answered. These were—first, that there was no necessity for additional taxation; second, that no extra taxation had been necessitated by the late Government; and third, that the tariff had not been imposed in the best way it could be. Upon these points he heartily concurred with the hon. member for Cumberland.

He deprecated the duty on shipbuilding, and also that on tea. He then proceeded to contend that the Finance Minister had in this particular especially discriminated against the poor man, and by removing but half of the duty on black tea as compared with green, had discriminated in favour of Western Canada as against the Maritime Provinces. Were the imports equally distributed when they were taken off silks and satins, and left on the articles of more common wear? He was glad that some little consideration had been shown to the shipbuilding trade, but he thought the same consideration should be shown to the canvas and cordage used by the poor fishermen.

The course which had been pursued by this House in forcing a Government fresh from the elections to fall back upon the tariff of their predecessor was a great testimony in favour of the preceding Administration. He felt bold to say that, had his colleagues remained in power, no additional duties would have been levied, as there was no necessity for them. He protested against these additional imposts, which would be laid on by the Government by the mere force of their support, as well as against the manner in which they had attempted to justify their conduct by laying the blame upon the Government which had preceded them.

Mr. MacKENZIE (Montreal West) described Hon. Mr. Tupper as what was generally known as colour-blind. The hon. member failed last year to see there was anything wrong in the Pacific Scandal transaction—a transaction which the whole world condemned, for which Canadians had to hang their heads in shame. Now the hon. gentleman was not able to see that there would be a deficit which he considered made little difference as things were now, but which would have been rather an unfortunate thing had the hon. member been the Minister of Finance.

He repudiated the idea that the statement of the Minister of Finance had injured our credit in the mother country, and declared that it came with an ill grace from the mouth of the hon. member for Cumberland, who, with his colleagues and accomplices, had

done their best only a year ago to trail the honour and moral and financial reputation of the country in the dust. He considered the changes proposed by the Government in the tariff as manly and straightforward, and they would meet, in his opinion, the requirements of the whole country and all the different interests.

Resolutions 1 to 5 were then read a second time, as follows:—

1. That it is expedient to amend the Act 31 Vic., Cap. 44, and other Acts amending the same, and the tariff of duties and Customs contained in the schedules annexed to the said Acts.

2. That it is expedient to repeal so much of the schedule A as imposes any specific duty of Customs on cigars or spirits and strong waters, and to substitute for such duties the specific duties mentioned in the next following resolution.

3. That it is expedient to impose on the several articles hereinafter mentioned the specific and *ad valorem* duties of Customs set opposite to each respectively, viz., cigars per lb., 70 cents; tea, green or Japan, per lb., 4 cents; tea black, per lb., 3 cents; coffee, green, per lb., 2 cents; spirits and strong waters, viz., not having been sweetened or mixed with any article so that the degree of strength thereof cannot be ascertained by Sykes' hydrometer, for every gallon of the strength of proof by such hydrometer and so in proportion for any less strength than the strength of proof, and for every greater or less quantity than a gallon, namely, brandy, Geneva alcohol, rum, gin (including Old Tom), whisky, and unenumerated articles like kind, per gallon, \$1.00; other spirits, being sweetened or mixed so that the degree of strength cannot be ascertained, as aforesaid, namely, rum shrub, cordials, tafia, Schiedam schnapps, bitters, and unenumerated articles of like kind, per gallon, \$1.50; cologne water and perfumed spirits not in flasks, per gallon, \$1.50; cologne water and perfumed spirits when in flasks or bottles not weighing more than four ounces, for each flask or bottle, five cents, unenumerated spirits and strong waters, \$1.50; spirits and strong waters imported into Canada, mixed with any ingredient or ingredients, and although thereby coming under the denomination of proprietary medicines, tinctures, essences, extracts, or any denomination, shall be nevertheless deemed spirits or strong waters, and subject to a duty as such. Fruits preserved in brandy or other spirits, per gallon, \$1.50.

4. That it is expedient to amend schedule B, annexed to the said Act, by adding the following articles to the list of goods paying 10 per centum *ad valorem*, viz., locomotive engine frames, axles, cranks, hoop iron or steel for tires of wheels, bent and welded crank axles, piston rods, guide and slide bars, crank pins, and connecting rods, machinery for mills, etc., not manufactured in the Dominion.

On resolution five, which is as follows:—That it is expedient to amend the said schedule B by adding the following articles to the list of goods paying five per centum *ad valorem*: ships' materials, viz.:—binnacle lamps; blocks and patent bushes for blocks; bunting; compasses; dead eyes; dead lights; deck plugs; iron knees; pumps and pump gear; iron riders; shackles; sheaves; signal lamps; steering apparatus; travelling trucks; wedges; cables (hemp or grass); cordage; sail cloth or canvass; varnish (black and bright); iron (scraps and galvanized); puddled bars; blooms and billets (puddled or not puddled); bolts and spikes (galvanized); wire.