

in Canada to-day which the morals of the people would be much better without. That is one of the reasons why we are justified in asking Parliament to keep the duty of 15 per cent. on these articles which are not necessary to the moral or intellectual welfare of the people. The article which the hon. gentleman read was written I suppose, two years ago when the duty was changed from 6 cts. per lb. to 15 per cent.

Mr. BLAKE. Not at all. This article was published on the 2nd of March, 1883.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Then it is not correct, and only shows that the writer did not know what he was writing on. It is not applicable to the present state of the case.

Mr. BLAKE. It was written before the Government had announced the change in the duty, and before the hon. gentleman made his financial statement.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Well, we have met the writer of that article half-way. We have given to the poor teacher to whom he referred his books of reference and his Greek and Latin books, with all the new discoveries to which the hon. gentleman referred.

Mr. BLAKE. Not at all. There are new editions of the classics published every day.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. We have largely met the case presented by the writer of that article. We have not gone the whole length for the reason that we are not prepared to strike down an industry in the country from which thousands are obtaining a livelihood to-day. We are not prepared to put them back in a position where they cannot compete with foreigners in their own country. The hon. gentleman has referred to the fact that nearly all the books published in England are found in the circulating libraries. The reason of that is that the author puts such extraordinary prices on them—a guinea or half a guinea—that they are beyond the reach of the masses of the people. You do not find in that country the cheap editions that you find in the United States and Canada, though there is a movement there in that direction now. Therefore the masses have access to those books to which the masses in England have not access, except through these libraries. When it was proposed to the public that all books not published in the Dominion, nor likely to be published, should be free, I pointed out the difficulty of administering a law of this kind. I asked how should the different Custom House officers know whether the book was published, or likely to be published in this country, or not. A member of the deputation said: "We can give a list of the books, and they can be put in the hands of every officer." I asked what about those likely to be published? That question could not be very well answered. I have a list which embraces a large portion of the books published—between 600 and 700 in number.

Mr. BLAKE. In how many years?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. That would have to be posted. What is the fact? The time was when American printers stole the brains of English authors, and published their works broadcast in the United States, and sent them over here. Our position is that we are stealing the brains of American authors, and publishing their works, not only in Canada, but they are finding their way largely into the United States. We have various publishing establishments in this country. It is just a question, therefore, whether we shall say all these establishments shall be closed, or that, in order to meet, as far as possible, the educational institutions of the country, and libraries of reference, that publish these standard books, encyclopædias and others, they shall have all those published seven years ago free, relieving them from duty on one-half of the publication. It is better that we should take the necessary revenue out of the

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light literature, which is one-half of the whole revenue collected. I think the proposition is a fair and liberal one.

Mr. FISHER. This is a question of such general interest to the whole community, as the hon. Finance Minister has said in his Budget Speech, that I regret it has only been discussed on this side of the House. I was in hopes that a question of such general interest as this would not assume a party form, but that, on the contrary, hon. gentlemen, supporters of the Administration, who, no doubt, feel the wants of the country, would have taken upon themselves to urge upon the hon. Finance Minister some further concession towards the popular demand than he has here granted; but, unfortunately, the matter seems to have been left entirely in the hands of the Opposition, and I feel bound not to let it pass without saying a few words. The hon. Finance Minister has intimated to us that the question was not one of revenue, that he did not retain the duty on books for seven years after publication for the purpose of collecting revenue, but almost entirely with the view of protecting the publishers of this country. In alluding to what the hon. member for West Durham has said, the hon. gentleman taunted the late Government with not having given us free books.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I did not taunt him.

M. FISHER. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon; I suppose he only taunted the hon. member for West Durham for not having urged this on the late Government. But at the time the late Government were in power the finances of the Government were in a different position from that in which they are now. Hon. gentlemen opposite take great pleasure in telling us that at this time the country was passing through a period of deficits, and that since they have come into power we have had a succession of glorious surpluses. These facts are true, but although these hon. gentlemen seem to take pleasure in my saying so, they cannot make any capital out of it, because I am prepared to say here, as I have said many times in the country, that those surpluses are not due to the National Policy, and that the policy of the hon. member for East York and his friends was not the cause of the deficits that took place during his administration. However, this is beside the question. I simply wish to note the fact that under the Mackenzie Administration the country was not in possession of surpluses, and that there was quite sufficient reason for a slight duty being put on books. Fortunately for hon. gentlemen opposite, and the country at large, we have to day such surpluses that we can afford to give up this slight duty on books; but instead of doing that the Government increase the 5 per cent. rate to 15 per cent. on imported books. Last year the Government acquired about \$90,000 revenue from this source, and I understood the hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech the other day, to predict for this year a surplus of about \$6,000,000. It seems to me, therefore, the small amount of revenue obtained from this source might well be spared out of our promised surplus for the year to come. In making this concession to us the hon. gentleman says he has given us half we asked; in other words we must be thankful for this half loaf, which is better than no bread. I venture, however, to differ entirely from the hon. gentleman in his estimate of the change. I believe that, instead of getting a half loaf, we are getting only a few crumbs, perhaps a crust which the hon. gentleman has taken care to dry for seven years before we get the benefit of it. He has acknowledged that there will be great difficulty in regard to the collection of the duty on account of that restriction of seven years, as the hon. member for West Durham has shown, a great many of the standard works are reissued, republished, and reannotated year after year. I have made some enquiries and I find from the booksellers of the country that not only are books republished and reissued, with the latest improvements, additions and annota-