

market for his products, of which wool is an important item. The new tariff in the States does him no good, and it would not be expedient to close any mill in Canada which uses the domestic wool extensively, especially when no substitute market is offered to the wool-grower. There is a staple in Canadian wool which is found very valuable in certain classes of tweeds, and it is not desirable that these materials, which are honest and durable stuff, should be run out of their own market by imported shoddy.

#### MERCHANTS AND GERMAN GOODS.

As was anticipated, the working of the preferential tariff rates on dry goods is causing some embarrassment to the Customs officials, and promises to cause more. This arises from the difficulty of distinguishing between goods of British origin and similar goods of foreign origin. The former come in at one-eighth less duty than the latter, and hence the natural desire of the importer to get the advantage which belongs to him when he imports British goods.

At present the Customs officials, as far as Toronto is concerned, seem to be proceeding on a principle which may be open to some objection, but really appears the only way out of the difficulty. The mere fact that goods are invoiced from a British house is not sufficient proof to ensure their getting the benefit of the minimum tariff. There must be additional evidence. But this is often impossible to give. So in the case of silks, for example; all are classed as foreign-made, because the bulk, if not the whole, of them imported here are manufactured in foreign countries. This, of course, does not seem fair to the English silks, but how are you to distinguish?

A large importer told THE REVIEW a day or two ago that he expected a consignment of silks shortly. "I know there are some English goods in the case, but I don't believe I could distinguish them from the others." If so, he will certainly pay the duties in the maximum tariff. The attention of the English silk interests should be directed to this state of things, because, if maintained as a regular practice, they will be deprived of the chance intended to be afforded by the new tariff of successfully competing in this market with their foreign rivals.

Then in the case of woolen hosiery, the rule is to consider this class of imports as foreign too. They mostly come from Germany. As to cotton hosiery, these imports will be considered British, because even under the old tariff we imported little from foreign countries, and the new preferential rates must still further encourage the purchase of British goods of this class.

Laces are likely to raise the same difficulty of distinguishing between British and continental goods. The invoice of a British house might be no indication, because there are firms with branches in England, France and Switzerland. It is probable that cotton laces will be classed as British, and silk laces of nearly all grades will be put down as foreign. While a rule of this kind may work well enough in large importing centres we do not know that there will be uniform classification at the smaller Custom houses, so that there may be much injustice done without intention. Altogether, from all we can learn, the preferential tariff on not easily distinguishable goods brings confusion. We do not envy the appraisers their lot.

#### A BIG U.S. DRY GOODS MAN SPEAKS.

SOME comment is caused by a recent speech delivered by Mr. John Wanamaker, who owns the big retail dry goods houses coupled with his name in Philadelphia and New York. He was addressing the Business Men's League in Philadelphia, and began by saying that the country was not prosperous and the expectation that better times would set in when the Republicans got in last November had not been fulfilled. He thought the Republicans (and he is a prominent member of that party and was Postmaster-General in President Harrison's Cabinet from 1888 to 1892) would suffer unless the trade depression was relieved. Mr. Wanamaker continued: "Idleness and want breed a bitter discontent, which will never be overcome until there are ample employments. The foes America has to fear are not the sullen, savage Turks, nor the insurrectionists of Cuba, nor the territory grasping British, but they are our own patient and heart-tired people, our own suffering, much promised people, who, betrayed and disheartened, no longer have faith in their party, and will turn to any leaderships that offer promise of better times, believing that worse times can never come than those existing. It is a terrible thing to observe public sentiment adrift and uncaptured, and the people sweeping away from their affection to the old party.

The young men are growing up indifferent to Republican principles, with no respect for parties of broken platforms who use national and state patronage in payment of election contracts. The political religion of the nation is falling lower and lower under the reckless daring of unscrupulous bosses. There are immeasurable depths of misfortune for this nation and state if the continued use of corporation and public moneys and the dispensation of federal and state patronage continue to be controlled in the interest of office-holders to hold office for themselves and to benefit those who desire to keep Government contracts or maintain particular protections through the money given by which elections are decided.

"There will most assuredly come a day when there will be a mighty revolt and resistance, resulting in a revolution that will give birth to a new political party. Laws continually despised and disregarded, legislation conceived for blackmailing purposes, speculation by public officials in trust and other stocks while tariffs and other financial bills are pending, must surely and irrevocably alienate the people from their party and awaken a disposition and desperation to substitute almost any wild and untried leadership with the hope of a possible relief.

"From some points of view it might seem there was not much to be done except to suffer and wait. It will be no easy task to undo the shackles which have grown upon us with the growth of years. There is no short cut across the field to victory."

These are very alarmist opinions. Critics who are in the habit of seeking for motives when men make surprising utterances declare that Mr. Wanamaker must either be disappointed in not securing the Pennsylvania senatorship, or that business in his big establishment cannot be as brisk as usual.

Whatever the cause, the speech throws light upon present conditions in the States, and indicates that the high tariff now before the Senate is not depended upon to restore completely the old prosperity in the republic.