

entitled, that if such a policy were adopted, we could derive a benefit from it, and it could be done without any injury to any interest in the world." A benefit we might derive, but it would not equal the loss, and would be no adequate compensation for the inevitable sacrifice. Every interest in both countries would suffer; and neither country would be any better off from the fact that it did not suffer alone.

#### DRY GOODS IN THE TARIFF.

It goes without saying that a protective tariff that shall prove adequate for its avowed purpose cannot all at once be framed. There must from time to time be alterations; something lowered to relieve one establishment or interest—something raised to further "protect" another—changes made intended to convert or conciliate—little additions or prunings designed to round off and render symmetrical the whole structure. So, during the building up of the National Policy in Canada, changes have come, and they have been neither few nor far between. How far they have succeeded in their object we do not here pretend to say; but they have assuredly puzzled the Customs' authorities at various points (not their serene Highnesses, the heads of the department at Ottawa, of course, for they were always self-satisfied, no matter who was troubled) and have worried the importers of this country times and again. The rest-and-be-thankful stage has not yet been reached, however; and the prayer of the merchants who had spent time and labor to acquaint themselves with the intricacies and successive changes in the Tariff, "Let us have peace and finality," has been unavailing.

In the budget speech of the Minister of Finance occurred an item which disturbed the dry-goods importers, and no wonder. With the apparent object of fostering the manufacture of such fabrics among us, a duty of seven and a half cents per pound specific and twenty per cent. *ad valorem* was proposed upon "dress stuffs, of wool, worsted, or part wool and part cotton." This would affect several classes of fabrics, unequally, as we shall show. The cost of a French dress stuff, all wool, is increased, under this duty, over its former impost, from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., the heavier being the more enhanced in price. But low-priced Melton dress-goods or unions, made (most largely of cotton) in Bradford or Glasgow in imitation of the French, paying the same rate of duty, is raised thereby from 25 to 30 per cent. above the duty it previously paid. The cost of the one may be two pence per yard, the cost of the other sevenpence. Yet while the more expensive French fabric got off with a duty of nine to twelve per cent. the poor man's British stuff would be saddled with sixty per cent! What are known as Italian cloths, used as linings by tailors and clothiers, would be affected by this duty, as it is contended, inequitably.

Deputations representing the Montreal, Quebec, Toronto and Hamilton dry goods importers visited Ottawa on Tuesday and laid the matter very clearly before the Finance Minister and the Minister of Customs.

It was rather significant that one of the members of parliament who accompanied the deputation, and who is himself a shareholder in the prospective mill which is to benefit by a change, declared before the ministers that he was heartily in accord with the views of the dry goods importers as stated at the conference. The result was a modification removing the unequal incidence complained of and preventing such discrimination against British fabrics and in favor of French. The item is now changed to read: "All fabrics composed wholly or in part of wool, worsted, hair of the Alpaca goat, not otherwise provided for,  $22\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. *ad valorem*; on all similar goods costing 10 cents per yard and under,  $22\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. *ad valorem*; over 10 cents and under 14 cents per yard, 25 per cent. *ad valorem*; 14 cents per yard and over,  $27\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. *ad valorem*." This does away with the specific duty altogether.

It was very strongly urged upon the attention of ministers that great quantities of these dress goods have already been sold, to arrive, for the fall trade, at prices based upon the previous duty. We hear of one firm which has 20,000 pieces, of several which have from 5,000 to 8,000 on the way, for a large portion of which orders at old prices have been taken from Canadian retailers. A heavy loss was inevitable if such a duty were exacted on these goods; and the case of such merchants clearly calls for consideration. Sir Chas. Tupper promised to add a clause to the bill giving the Government discretion to grant concessions in cases of hardship growing out of the changes as affecting contracts already made.

We observe, further, that the duty on prints and dyed cottons has again been raised, this time from  $27\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to  $32\frac{1}{2}$ . The extra five per cent. is doubtless intended to further assist the Magog mill. Montreal importers suggest that an exception be made in favor of printed lawns, muslins, sleeve-linings and handkerchiefs, admitting these at old rates.

#### THE LUMBER TRADE.

The prospect for this season's movement of our sawn lumber are on the whole encouraging. Its consumption, especially in Canada, will be large unless the present promise be set aside by strikes in the building trades generally, which may be precipitated by the present attitude of the stonemasons here. In spite, even, of such incidents as the one in question, there are indications that prices will be maintained, inasmuch as forest products are steadily getting into fewer hands, and there is, according to the report laid before the Northwestern Lumbermen's Association last month, a decrease of 840,000,000 feet, or more than thirty-five per cent. in the stocks of logs on the skids in the six great lumber-producing states of the American Union. It is to be borne in mind that the recent Act of the Ontario Government brought into effect an increase of ground rent and timber dues to the Crown which is equal to an advance of 25 cents per thousand.

Only capitalists or operators who are

strong in credit and resources can afford to hold limits at these advanced rates. The proposals of the Quebec Government in a like direction were too sweeping; in fact the rates suggested in the bill are termed by the trade "outrageous." It is no wonder that they called forth from lumbermen and the banks a strong protest.

An effect of the export duty on saw logs has been to put a stop, or very nearly so, to the rafting of logs from the Georgian Bay to Saginaw and Chicago, or the carrying of them in enormous barges to those points. And it has brought American manufacturers to do their sawing in Canada. We hear of one firm, the Emory Brothers of Saginaw, who will saw this year ten million feet board measure at Midland. They have leased the mills of the British American Lumber Company. The refuse of the mills, moreover, is being taken by barges to the American cities and used for a variety of purposes, the sawdust, even, being made, by a process of pressure, into ornaments for furniture and for interior decoration.

We hear no predictions of an advance in prices, but dealers are looking for an active trade with prices fully maintained, especially in bill-stuff. The stocks on hand at Chicago on 1st May, were 100,000,000 feet less than a year ago. A state of things exists in that city which is grave; 50,000 workers connected with wood working trades were locked out a week ago, while the brick-layers and hod-carriers are on strike. This makes the outlook for Chicago lumber dealers somewhat mixed. Reports from eastern cities are more generally favorable.

#### BORROWER AND LENDER.

Another attempt was made, in a bill brought before the House of Commons last month, by Mr. McMullen, of North Welling-ton, to alter the relations of lender and borrower on mortgage. The bill provided that a second or third mortgagee could obtain assignment of prior incumbrances, if in arrears and notice had been given of an action to recover, and that he should, on payment of principal, interest and costs, be entitled to receive assignment within thirty days.

But the most interesting portion of the bill is that providing that all mortgages, drawn and executed after date, shall contain a clause to the following or a similar effect: "The mortgagor, or any person claiming under him, may pay off the incumbrance hereby created, at any time after the expiration of one year from the date hereof, by giving the mortgagee notice of his intention to do so, or by paying, in lieu of such notice, six months' interest in advance."

The law clerk of the House at Ottawa has declared, upon examination of the bill, that one of its clauses is *ultra vires*, and it has therefore been withdrawn.

—The Dominion bank has had another good year, having earned nearly fourteen per cent. upon its capital of \$1,500,000. It has divided ten per cent., put \$50,000 to Rest—making that fund \$1,070,000—and placed \$5,000 to Pension and Guarantee fund. The annual meeting will be held on Wednesday next.