

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes, arrangements are being made that, in case of necessity, the gaps, 70 miles north of Lake Superior, which are not fit for railway travel, shall be made available for the transport of a force by means of sleighs. Everything is being made ready in case of necessity. The "B" Battery at Kingston has been warned that their services may be wanted, and there may be arrangements proposed, as a matter of regimental detail, by which a portion of "A" Battery may join "B" Battery. There are some telegrams now being deciphered and I will be glad to give the House any information in my power before it rises.

HUDSON BAY EXPEDITION SUPPLIES.

Mr. VAIL. When will the Minister of Marine and Fisheries furnish me with the documents with reference to supplies furnished to the Hudson Bay expedition?

Mr. McLELAN. I have spoken about them once or twice and all due diligence will be made to bring them down.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 114) to comprise in one Act a limitation of the Share and Loan Capital of the Hamilton Provident and Loan Society—(from the Senate).—(Mr. Kilvert.)

WAYS AND MEANS—THE TARIFF.

House again resolved itself into Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I would suggest to the Minister of Finance that, in order to save unnecessary complications, he might state, as each separate item is called, first of all what amount of revenue is involved, if any, and next what are the reasons in particular which call for that change in the tariff to be made.

"Free list—Gas coke."

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I propose to take the free list first. There are a great number of articles which are now free by Order in Council, and we propose to include them in the Tariff Act. Gas coke is free under Order in Council.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. At the same time it would be convenient to have a brief statement—I do not want to insist on unnecessary detail—of why these articles were made free. Gas coke, I suppose, is free in the interest of the gas companies, or does it include all kinds of coke in practice?

Mr. BOWELL. No, only gas coke, and it was placed upon the free list in order to assist those living on the frontier engaged in manufacturing industries. It has been imported and used only, I believe, in the Eastern Townships, in connection with mining operations.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It has nothing to do in particular with the gas companies?

Mr. BOWELL. No, it has nothing at all to do with the gas companies, nor with any other kind of coke, which is manufactured, as the hon. gentleman knows, expressly for smelting purposes.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. How much does that cover?

Mr. BOWELL. It has been on the free list since June, 1877. I am not aware just now how much has been imported.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. These are all apparently since 1883. The words are: "By adding to the free list

the following articles now admitted free by Order in Council, under authority of sub section 12 of section 230 of the Customs Act, 1883."

"Woollen rags."

Mr. BOWELL. It should have read "as amended," because the hon. gentleman will remember the Customs Act was amended in 1883. Woollen rags were placed on the free list in the same way. They are used principally, I believe, in the shoddy mills. Cotton rags were free, and it was considered that woollen rags might be placed in the same category.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. But was not the object of the National Policy to turn shoddy out of the country, and give us pure woollen goods? I must say that I am quite aware that the shoddy manufacture has been gone into pretty extensively. I have been through woollen mills in which I have seen these shoddy manufacturers at work, and it seems to me to be a very dubious question whether that shoddy manufacture should be encouraged. It is certainly not in accordance with the statements we used to hear about the desirability of having a pure woollen article.

Mr. BLAKE. I remember to have been encountered on many occasions at public meetings by orators of the opposite persuasion who pointed out the grievance the people of Canada were laboring under in having cheap Yorkshire goods, cheap shoddy goods, composed of devil's dust, brought into the market, and yet it is to encourage this improper, this unclean practice that the hon. gentleman proposes to introduce the raw material of shoddy free. He says woollen rags were put on the free list because cotton rags were on the free list. I suppose cotton rags are wanted generally to make paper, but woollen rags are used almost entirely to make shoddy. Is that in furtherance of the National Policy?

Mr. BOWELL. All industries are. The hon. gentleman may have been met on the stump by argument such as he mentions. I have been met on the stump with the declaration of hon. gentlemen opposite that all heavy goods, especially this class of goods, having to pay so much per pound and so much *ad valorem*, the poor man was virtually shut out from getting cheap goods. That is the argument which has always been used by hon. gentlemen opposite when discussing the question of the tariff; and, if people will wear that class of goods, it is better that it should be made at home than that they should have to pay the duty on an inferior article, a very unclean article, brought from Yorkshire. I have no doubt that, if they will wear the cheap quality, they would prefer to have it made at home.

Mr. BLAKE. Has the importation of woollen rags largely increased?

Mr. BOWELL. I cannot say.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I observe that the free importation now is 179,000 pounds, which is a respectable growth of shoddy manufacture. I do not know how much was imported paying duty, if any.

Mr. BLAKE. Is it within the knowledge of the Minister that there has been a very considerable increase in the introduction of shoddy into the woollen goods manufactured in Canada?

Mr. BOWELL. No.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman has not received the information that there is any deterioration in the character of woollen goods?

Mr. O'BRIEN. I do not agree with the Finance Minister on this question. When we have our wool at such a low price as now, it is a very poor way of carrying out the