

that, under this tariff, the shipbuilder would receive no benefit. He would ask what boon had they received for this increased taxation? None, whatever. They were induced to enter this Confederation, on the compact that their taxation would not be increased. The only thing put forward by the hon. the Minister of Finance the other night, anything like a concession in their favour, was a tax of 50c. per ton on coal. He (Mr. Weldon) had stopped to hear if there would be a cheer from the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Poull), when that announcement would be made, but he was silent. There was another important interest with regard to the Maritime Provinces, which he would also deal with, that was the coasting trade. From their geographical position, their natural market was the United States. They sent shingles, clapboards, etc., to the American markets, and in return received various commodities in exchange. He found that last year there had been 24,000 arrivals and departures of vessels between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and the United States. But, under this tariff, owing to the increased duties, these vessels would be unable to bring return cargoes. He would ask the hon. member for Digby (Mr. Wade), whose constituency was largely engaged in this business, and the people of Annapolis, how this tariff was going to affect them. They would have to purchase their breadstuffs in Ontario at a higher rate. Somebody would reap the benefit of the additional tax on corn-meal and flour. He thought they would find that the importers of the city of St. John were going to be seriously injured by this tariff. They found that many of the very men who had supported the Minister of Finance now felt that their business was to be entirely destroyed by the duties now imposed. They were a producing country, and the extra expense required to obtain their supplies would fall heavily on the people. This country could not consume the articles produced in it, and they required foreign markets. So far as he could judge from letters he had received from the Lower Provinces, he found that the feeling there with regard to this tariff was that it was a tariff which would press heavily on the poor man.

He (Mr. Weldon) said he held in his hand a letter from a large carrier, referring to the difficulties which this tariff would impose upon Canada. Another illustration he would give was in regard to blankets. He held in his hand a Halifax paper which gave a statement of the case as it existed, the figures being supplied by a dyer of that city. A firm had just imported two bales of blankets, costing, in England, \$252. Under the old tariff the duty would have been \$45.50; under the new tariff the total duty was \$110.25, or two and a-half times as much as before. The tax was a little higher on more expensive blankets. Now, with regard to literature, he assumed that it was the duty of the Government to foster the introduction of literature, and more particularly of a high class of literature. But by this tariff it was completely shut out. He was informed by a leading firm that the first package they had received under the new tariff had to pay a duty of 25 per cent. *ad valorem*. The new tariff taxed such a book as Webster's Dictionary by weight 67c.; under the old tariff it was 30c. An excellent work like Macaulay's History paid 66c., while formerly it only paid 30c., and so of all the better class of books. One of the leading booksellers of Halifax said: "We do not approve of the duty on printed books, as it shuts out a very large quantity of cheap literature published in Great Britain, as well as the ordinary school books. The result of this will be, that instead of having a literature of a better class, we shall have that of a cheap and ordinary class." There was also another class of books which would be seriously affected by this tariff, and which he needed only to mention to secure the sympathy of the House — he referred to law-books. English Law Reports had to pay 60c. each, which would raise the price from \$29.60 to nearly \$40.00 a year. This was a heavy tax on the indispensable legal knowledge of this country. This class of literature and still better class were entirely shut out by this tariff. He understood the hon. the Minister of Finance to say the other evening that he had been informed by a merchant of St. John that since the tariff duty was imposed he had been able to purchase corn