

versant with the inter-provincial trade will tell you that both these calculations are under the mark. Then we will find that during the last ten years Nova Scotia has paid not \$12,700,000, but really more than \$18,000,000 without excise or stamp duties, adding those she has paid \$20,000,000. Taking, therefore, the present population of Nova Scotia at 400,000, and the present imports at only \$14,000,000, it is equivalent to a payment of \$5.00 by every man, woman and child in the Province, or \$30 by every head of a family. In other words every laboring man is compelled to give one days labor out of every ten to support the government.

The articles used by the poor man, by the present tariff, pays as much and in many cases far more than those used by the wealthy. Silks and satins pay no more than woollens and cottons. The tea used by the wealthy manufacturer of Ontario pays about 10 per cent., while that used by our poor fishermen pays between 30 and 35 per cent. out of every ten pounds of tea the former uses, the Government takes one, while out of every four pounds the latter purchases, the same Government extracts one pound. The cigars smoked by the millionaire at the bank board pay only 30 per cent., while the tobacco smoked by the poor fisherman on the Banks of Newfoundland pays 200 per cent. The wine consumed by the rich merchant pays less than 20 per cent., while the rum drank by the poor laborer of this Province pays more than 350 per cent. For every dollar's worth of wine imported for the wealthy, Government gets 20 cents; while it makes the poor man pay \$3.50 for every dollar's worth of rum imported for him.

Is it surprising that the more lightly taxed manufacturers of Ontario can send down their goods and undersell the highly taxed people of this Province.

Is it astonishing that with a tariff constructed to enable the grocers of Toronto to import from New York, that our West India trade should languish, that our coopers should lack employment, our fishermen customers, and our ships return empty to this port after having deposited their cargoes at that great emporium of the United States.

Is it a matter of wonder that with a tariff pressing so onerously and so unjustly on this Province, the assessed values of the different counties show a large decrease in value during the last ten years. That Cape Breton has decreased from \$2,821,000 in 1869, to \$2,625,000 in 1878; that Digby from \$1,284,000 has sunk to \$1,084,000; that East Hants from \$1,655,000 has gone down to \$1,472,000, and West Hants which in 1870 stood at \$2,423,000 is now assessed at \$2,064,000, and that Queen's county has dwindled down from \$1,812,000 to \$1,245,000.

With these figures before you, taken from the public records, I call upon you to exercise your franchise in favour of the party which will so re-adjust the tariff as to make it fair and equitable in its operations.

The present Government has not listened to our reasonable demands, but has refused to make any amendment. Let us try another, and let us be careful in the selection of our representatives to choose men who will not hesitate to abandon any Government that will not do us justice.

JAMES THOMSON.

*Halifax, July 19th, 1878.*