

that did not contain at least 25 per cent. of foreign leaf. The government provided that we could take the Canadian tobacco and experiment with it up to 75 per cent., but the manufacturer could not put a lemon wrapper around any tobacco that did not contain at least 25 per cent. of foreign leaf. That insured that the industry would not be killed in its infancy by unscrupulous manufacturers who might cover up a shoddy article with a bright-colored wrapper. That regulation continued in force in 1897, and part of 1898. In 1898, the Tobacco Growers' Association of the western counties met at the village of Kingsville and passed a resolution asking the government to reduce the amount of foreign tobacco necessary to be used in mixing down to 10 per cent., which practically covers the wrapper only. That resolution was presented to the government and was agreed to. By reason of that one regulation concerning mixed tobacco factories, enabled us to put a tobacco upon the market presentable in appearance, and the inside spoke for itself. I need only point this House once more to the expert opinions on our tobacco, and to the largely increased amount of Canadian tobacco consumed in Canada to prove the success of the Liberal policy in that regard. When the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), and when the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson)—I had nearly forgotten him—stated in this House that this government has increased taxation on the laboring men by reason of the tobacco duties, they are making statements which they have not tried to verify, or else they are making unfounded statements for the purpose of getting party capital and caring not what damage these statements might do to the Canadian growers and the Canadian manufacturers of tobacco. I am advised by the wholesale men that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Henderson) could have gone to Georgetown or Oakville, or Acton, in his own constituency, and at least in four places in any one of these towns and villages, he could have bought the Canadian tobacco for forty cents a pound where he would pay eighty cents for the foreign tobacco now, and sixty cents prior to these duties of 1897.

I have one more point, Mr. Speaker, before closing. The hon. member for Richmond, N. S., asked the other day of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), the hon. member for Antigonish (Mr. McIsaac), the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), and other members representing the maritime provinces: How could they explain to their constituents the imposition of an extra duty on the tobacco of the fishermen of the lower provinces. Well, these gentlemen can take up these figures which I have just given from the blue-books of parliament, and from the Inland Revenue Returns, or they can hold up the product of the Empire Tobacco Company to prove the wisdom of the policy adopted by this government. I said then as I say now that I am prepared to go to the country on this issue. I did intend speaking of cigars, but I shall not detain the House at this late hour further than to say that cigars retailing at five cents in Canada and manufactured from foreign leaf are made very largely from tobacco grown in Wisconsin State. I would like to see the Canadian representative in this House who would dare to stand on his feet and say that the state of Wisconsin can produce anything that South-western Ontario cannot produce. In speaking of this question in 1895, the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), the hon. member for

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