

these goods have not been sold, and are still unconsumed, and what do I find: I find a reduction of \$24,757, during the eight months, \$751,702 of which was on tea and coffee. On the other side I find a total increase of \$932,988, shewing a net increase of \$108,231. What are the items on which this increase has occurred? The increased amount on silk and satins, on jewellery and on other articles coming under the fifteen per cent head, is \$370,000. This increase is not in excess of the increase on other goods, only taken out of bond when required for consumption.

Mr. MACKENZIE—Has the hon. gentleman a statement for the last two months as compared with the same two months of the last year.

Hon. Mr. TILLEY—Yes, I have, and to my surprise it shows an increase. I fully expect that in the next three months there will be a reduction, and my estimate has been made upon that expectation.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—I meant February and March.

Hon. Mr. TILLEY—Yes, and I was surprised to find an increase. We have an increase on the amount of sugar entered for consumption of over \$370,000 in the eight months I have mentioned as compared with the previous corresponding eight months. I desire to call the attention of the House to this fact, because it is very important and significant, as we all know perfectly well as previously stated, that merchants dealing in sugar and spirits on a large scale do not pay duty unless these articles are required for consumption. On fancy goods the duty, as a rule, is paid when imported, but this is not the case with sugar.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—It is when for the refinery.

Hon. Mr. TILLEY—That may be, but this is to a large extent refined sugar imported. Then we come to the duty paid on brandy, wines and spirits, and here we find an increase of \$72,000, and these articles also are not taken out unless for consumption. Then we find on goods paying fifteen per cent an increase of \$386,000, while the increase on sugar and wines and spirits amounts to \$450,000, and from this I think we may fairly infer that there is a steady and very important increase in the consumption of every description of article of consumption in the country, and that the importations, though they may be less on a few articles, will altogether fully equal what they have been hitherto, so that we may fairly expect from Customs an amount equal to that received in the present year.

We now come to the item of Excise, and it is estimated by the Department that the revenue will be \$4,725,000,