

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

Mr. Fielding presented his budget to the House of Commons at Ottawa on Tuesday last. We quote the concluding portion of it, as also the Tariff Resolutions as we find them in the "Mail" special of Wednesday morning:

With a view of increasing the revenue and assisting the West Indies, the Government proposed to return the polariscopic system formerly in use.

"We propose," said Mr. Fielding, "to begin at a limit of 75 degrees by polariscopic test, and charge for that degree, or anything below it, a duty of 40 cents per hundred pounds, adding 1½ cents for each additional degree. The average test of raw sugar used is 92, which will make the duty 65½ cents per hundred pounds, as against 50 cents under the present tariff. The preferential tariff, as regards West India sugar, will take effect August 1st. A reduction of 25 per cent. on 65½ cents will leave the preferential rate at 49 1-8 cents per hundred, as against 50 cents at present. In the case of fractions of the degree, less than half a degree will not count, and over half will count one. The effect of this on the revenue can only be guessed at. Upon all sugar from the West Indies a little less duty will be received than now, but whatever may come from other countries will pay an increased duty of 15½ cents per 100 pounds. Our hope and desire is that we shall largely increase the consumption of West Indian sugar, but no estimates can be given as to how far this desire will be realized. With respect to the duty on the refined sugar, the polariscopic test will also be applied. The duty will be \$1.08 per hundred pounds on sugar testing 88, or anything below, with 1½ cents additional for each additional degree. On yellow sugars testing at 88 degrees the increase will be 8 cents per hundred pounds. On granulated sugar testing at 99½ degrees, the duty will be \$1.24½ per hundred, as against \$1 at present. The increase of duty on refined sugar will vary from one-twelfth of a cent a pound on the yellow, or soft lated. An increase of a quarter of a cent on the higher sugar and of 8 or 10 cents per hundred on the cheap refined sugars."

Mr. Fielding read the resolutions, and concluded his speech with a glowing picture of the present prosperity and future prospects of the country. He referred to the warm welcome the preferential tariff had received in the Mother Country and all over the Empire, and in this connection quoted the following from a despatch from Mr. Chamberlain: "I desire to add, in conclusion, that the action of the Dominion Government and Parliament in this matter, though unfortunately its full effect will be temporarily postponed, has been warmly welcomed and appreciated by her Majesty's Government, and the people of this country, as a measure, which cannot fail to result in material benefit to the Mother Country and to Canada, and to weld together still more firmly the ties which now unite them." (Great cheering.)

In view of Mr. Foster's illness, the Government agreed to the adjournment of the debate, and the House rose at 9.30.

TARIFF RESOLUTIONS.

Ottawa, April 5.—(Special.)—Following are the tariff resolutions:

That it is expedient to repeal section six of "The Customs Tariff, 1897," and to substitute the following section therefor:

6. The importation into Canada of any goods enumerated, described, or referred to in schedule C to this Act is prohibited; and any such goods imported shall thereby become forfeited to the Crown, and may be destroyed or otherwise dealt with as the Minister of Customs may direct; and any person importing any such prohibited goods, or causing or permitting them to be imported, shall for each offence incur a penalty not exceeding \$200.

PREFERENTIAL TARIFF.

That it is expedient to provide that section seventeen of the Customs tariff, 1897, shall be repealed on and after the 1st day of August, in the present year, 1898, and that the following section shall be substituted therefor:

17. Articles which are the growth, product, or manufacture of any of the following countries may, when imported direct into Canada from any of such countries, be entered for duty or taken out of warehouse for consumption in Canada at the reduced rate of duty provided in the British preferential tariff, set forth in schedule D to this Act.

(a) The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

(b) The British colony of Bermuda.

(c) The British colonies commonly called the British West Indies, including the following:

The Bahamas, Jamaica, Turk's Island, and the Caicos Islands, the Leeward Islands (Antigua, St. Christopher-Nevis, Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands), the Windward Islands (Grenada, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia), Barbadoes, Trinidad, and Tobago, British Guiana.

(d) Any other British colony or possession the Customs tariff of which, on the whole, is as favorable to Canada as the British preferential tariff herein referred to is to such colony or possession. Provided, however, that manufactured articles to be admitted under such preferential tariff shall be bona-fide the manufactures of a country or countries entitled to the benefits of such tariff, and that such benefits shall not extend to the importation of articles into the production of which there has not entered a substantial portion of the labor of such countries. Any question that may arise as to any article being entitled to such benefits shall be decided by the Minister of Customs, whose decision shall be final.

2. The Minister of Customs, with the approval of the Governor-in-Council, shall determine what British colonies or possessions shall be entitled to the benefits of the preferential tariff under clause D of this section.

3. The Minister of Customs may, with the approval of the Governor-in-Council, make such regulations as may be deemed necessary for carrying out the intention of this section.

That it is expedient to provide that section D to "The Customs Tariff, 1897," shall be repealed on and after the 1st day of August, in the present year, 1898, and that the following schedule shall be substituted therefor:

Schedule D.—British Preferential Tariff—On articles the growth, produce, or manufacture of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or of any British colony or possession entitled to the benefits of this preferential tariff under section seventeen, the duties mentioned in schedule A shall be reduced, as follows: The reduction shall be one-fourth of the duty mentioned in schedule A, and the duty to be levied, collected, and paid shall be three-fourths of the duty mentioned in schedule A.

Provided, however, that this reduction shall not apply to any of the following articles, and that such articles shall in all cases be subject to the duties mentioned in schedule A, viz.: wines, malt liquors, spirits, spirituous liquors, liquid medicines, and articles containing alcohol; tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

Provided, however, that this reduction shall not apply to any of the following articles, and that such articles shall in all cases be subject to the duties mentioned in schedule A, viz.: wines, malt liquors, spirits, spirituous liquors, liquid medicines, and articles containing alcohol; tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes.

Provided, further, that the reduction shall only apply to refined sugar when evidence satisfactory to the Minister of Customs is furnished that such refined sugar has been manufactured wholly from raw sugar produced in British colonies or possessions.

SUGARS.

That it is expedient to repeal items 435 and 436 of schedule A to "The Customs Tariff, 1897," and to substitute the following therefor:

435—All sugar above number sixteen Dutch standard in color, and all refined sugars of whatever kinds, grades or standards, testing not more than eighty-eight degrees by the polariscope, one dollar and eight cents per one hundred pounds, and for each additional degree one and one-half cents per one hundred pounds. Fractions of five-tenths of a degree or less not to be subject to duty, and fractions of more than five-tenths to be dutiable as a degree.

436—Sugar, n.e.s., not above number sixteen, Dutch standard in color, sugar drainings or pumpings drained in transit, melado, or concentrated melado, tank bottoms and sugar concrete, testing not more than seventy-five degrees by the polariscope, forty cents per one hundred pounds, and for each additional degree, one and one-half cents per one hundred pounds. Fractions of five-tenths of a degree or less not to be subject to duty, and fractions of more than five-tenths to be dutiable as a degree. The usual packages in which imported to be free.

That it is expedient to provide that items 445 and 446 of schedule A to "The Customs Tariff, 1897," shall be repealed on and after the first day of July in the present year, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

TOBACCO.

That it is expedient to provide that on and after the first day of July, in the present year, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, the following items shall be added to schedule B to the Customs tariff, 1897:—

636—Tobacco, manufactured, for excise purposes, under conditions of the Inland Revenue Act.

That it is expedient to provide that on and after the first day of July in the present year, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, in addition to the excise duties at present levied on manufactured tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, there shall be levied and collected the following excise duties, that is to say:—

(a)—On all foreign raw leaf tobacco, unstemmed, taken out of warehouse for manufacture, in any cigar or tobacco manufactory, ten cents per pound.

(b)—On all foreign raw leaf tobacco, stemmed, taken out of warehouse for manufacture in any cigar or tobacco manufactory, fourteen cents per pound.

Provided, that the weight upon which such duty shall be computed, shall be with reference to the standard mentioned in paragraph (c) of section 247 of the Inland Revenue Act.

—A Reasonable Supposition.—"Potter Palmer, of Chicago, is going to build a home that will cost \$3,000,000." "That looks as if the plumbing was included."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

ENGLAND'S DRINK BILL.

Dr. Dawson Burns, writing on this subject to the London Times, says:

"The national drink bill of 1897, amounted to £152,281,723, and the estimated population of the United Kingdom being 39,824,563, there was an average expenditure of £3 16s. 5¼d, by each man, woman and child, or of £19 2s. 4¾d. by each family of five persons. These averages were, of course, purely arithmetical, the actual expenditure both as individuals and families, varying from sums relatively small to a large proportion of the entire personal or domestic income. The drink expenditure in 1897 exceeded by nearly three millions and a third that of 1896, which was equal to £3 15s. 6d. per head. This increase was composed of £757,125 on British spirits, and £154,016 on foreign and colonial spirits, a total of £911,141, on spirits, while on beer the increase was