

### THE POOR MAN NOT AFFECTED AT ALL.

I did not bring down an undigested measure to this House; I thought this thing out. My right hon. friend speaks about the poor man travelling on a second-class ticket, and in that connection let me make my hon. friend acquainted with (because I do not think he knows) the proposals. In the first place, so far as railway tickets are concerned, up to one dollar there is no taxation whatever. It is only when a ticket costs over a dollar, and from one dollar to not more than five dollars, that there is a tax of five cents, or a maximum percentage of five per cent. On tickets valued over five dollars for each additional five dollars or fractional part of five dollars which the ticket costs the charge is five cents. **Will the right hon. gentleman tell me how any poor man is injured by that?** It is a small tax, and it would seem to me that it is only a five cent matter that the right hon. gentleman wants to talk about. My right hon. friend this afternoon drew a picture—and it seemed to me it was a demagogic picture—of the pampered son of wealthy parents, who he said had never done an honest day's work in his life. Well, there is many a man who is the son of wealthy parents—I never had that advantage myself—who is not dishonest. But the right hon. gentleman pictured this son of wealthy parents, lolling in luxury, with pillows surrounding him, such as the right hon. gentleman is accustomed to, in the pullman, and no doubt he spoke as one having experience. My right hon. friend, no doubt, travels in that way all the time; he travels in luxury, and whether he travels on a pass or not I do not know. I hope he does; I have no objection whatever to his travelling on a pass. My right hon. friend overlooked another thing—as to whether he intentionally overlooked it or not I have very great doubt—but, take a chair car ticket from Toronto to Hamilton, which costs 25 cents. And a man pays 5 cents on that, which is a percentage of 20 per cent. The poor man is taxed only 5 cents if he chancas to buy a ticket which amounts to one dollar in value, or a maximum of 5 per cent, and the man who habitually takes a chair car, and pays 25 cents for the privilege, is also taxed 5 cents, or 20 per cent, just as he would in respect to a dollar or a two dollar charge for a chair. Adding it all together, you will find that the man who habitually uses a chair car will be fairly heavily taxed, and that is a factor in the case. Had we increased the tax on the sleeping-car tickets and the chair car tickets—and the same will apply to the ordinary ticket—beyond a certain point every man who lives near the border would in all probability travel by the United States, if he is going to a western point, in order to save any heavy tax that would be imposed on him.

This measure was thought out carefully, Mr. Speaker. I do not like hon. gentlemen opposite to think that I bring down any half-digested or ill-digested measures to this House. Although I do make mistakes, as any man may, and a man who never makes mistakes never makes anything, I feel that I have made no mistake in these fiscal proposals.

### IT FALLS ON THE BUSINESS MAN.

My right hon. friend has also spoken about the poor man having to pay an increase of 50 per cent upon the letters he mails. That was not a fair argument, and I will tell you why. Who writes the most letters in this country? Is it the business house or the ordinary man, or the poor man, speaking generally? The ordinary man does write an occasional letter, but the business houses of this country are writing hundreds of letters every day. And that is where that tax is going to fall.