

Essence of Parliament.

Pithily put paragraphs by prominent parliamentarians.

Mr. Speaker, I think I am in a position to state that those who were complaining of the tariff we have had up to now will not be more satisfied with the new tariff brought up to this House for their approval. Indeed, the changes proposed by the hon gentleman amount to what? The duties have been raised upon certain things and lowered upon many others. But this lowering is hardly perceptible, and there is no change that is calculated to impress the public sentiment. And, I think I can, in all earnestness, here apply the word of Alphonse Karr: "The more it changes, the more it is the same thing" Mr. Rinfret, (Lotbiniere, Que.)

Now, Sir, what do these tariff amendments mean? If I have grasped their meaning at all, I would venture to say—and, in fact, it is not seriously questioned—that the tariff is still to be regarded as a tariff in the interest of the manufacturing class. That is the key-note of all the changes which have been made—that the tariff is still a protective one, and, that those changes are in the interest, not of the great consuming masses, but of those who are recognized as the protected classes. Mr. McCarthy. (Simcoe.)

The customs tariff of the Dominion should be based, not as it is now upon a protective principle, but upon the requirements of the public service.

The existing tariff, founded upon an unsound principle, and used as it has been by the Government as a corruption agency to keep themselves in office, has developed monopolies, trusts and combinations.

It has oppressed the masses to the enrichment of a few.

It has checked immigration.

It has caused great loss of population.

It has impeded commerce.

It has discriminated against Great Britain.

The highest interests of Canada demand removal of this obstacle to our country's progress by the adoption of a sound fiscal policy, which, while not doing injustice to any class, will promote domestic and foreign trade and hasten the return of prosperity to our people. Mr. Forbes. (Queen's, N.S.)

Now, if a man is a producer and an exporter through the instrumentality of his labour, and his surplus products are sold in the markets of the world, how can he be enriched by placing a duty on the articles which he buys and which are imported into this country? It is preposterous. It is ridiculous, to contend that, and it is time that every protectionist should wipe out of his mind the nonsensical idea that protection enhances the price of labour. Mr. Edwards. (Russell.)

The Government have done worse. They have introduced a debasing and degrading element into the body politic. If there was no other reason, if all they say as to our material progress was true, as I know it to be false, it would be enough for ever to condemn the protective principle in the eyes of honest men, that wherever you have protection you have corruption, and corruption in the highest degree. Protection and corruption are political Siamese twins. They have never been separated in this world, and I do not think they will be in the next. Sir. Richard Cartwright.

The events of the last few years have proved one thing conclusively to my mind, and that is that it is not for the ultimate good of the Canadian farmer that the raw products of his farm should go freely into the United States market. The farmer is a peculiar being. With him sufficient unto the day are the evils thereof. Far be it from me to say anything derogatory to his intelligence, but I say that the farmer of this country, if he can raise sufficient to keep him from day to day, is generally satisfied. Mr. McNerny. (Conservative Kent, N.B.)

Mr. Mulock—That is the kind of policy you want for the farmer—just let him live and have enough to eat.

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Foreston.

The fly season has set in, and the fishermen wend their way towards the trout and salmon pools of the Miramichi. To strangers contemplating casting a line in these renowned waters, we may inform them that here is a commodious hotel, and guides and boatmen may be found to pilot sportsmen to the best fishing grounds.

Mr. Welch's saw mill has been repaired and a gang of men are busily engaged sawing into boards and dimension stuff, a large stock of logs, retained in the mill pond for that purpose.

Biggar Ridge.

The growing crops are looking well, in this neighbourhood and the late warm weather and genial rains have had most surprising effects on the grass, as well as on the grain crops. Though farming is over for the present, our farmers are not idle. Messrs. Huggard, are lumbering, in spite of mosquitos, black-flies, midges and other tormentors that infest swamps and damp woodlands. We wish them joy of their bargain.

Ben Knowles of Geneva, Mich., reports a singular cow. Last year she gave birth to twins, which died, and two weeks later to a calf which was raised. This year she she evolved twins, and two weeks afterward, repeated the operation. Seven calves in two seasons. If Mr. Knowles is not lying, he is dangerously near it.

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