

## THE TARIFF.

The declaration by the Government to discriminate in favor of Britain is one of the features of the new tariff that meets with the plaudits of the House and is one that will meet with the approbation of the country. The other prominent features of the tariff bill are an increase of duty on tobacco and liquors, a reduction on coal oil, binder twine, fence wire, and iron, a bounty on the production of iron and the placing of a few articles such as corn for feeding on the free list.

Turning to the items of the tariff bill, an increase is put on all spirits, including whiskey, of 15c per gallon, namely, from \$2.25 per gallon to \$2.40. Champagne is unchanged, but an additional duty of 3c. per degree is placed on wines grading from 26 up to 40 proof. Animals and agricultural products are in the main unchanged. Corn is placed on the free list; flour is reduced from 75c. to 60c. per barrel. The duty on wheat is made 12 cents, instead of 15 as formerly, and corn-meal 25 cents, instead of 40 cents per barrel. There is an increase to  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent per pound on rice uncleaned, while cleaned remains as before. Potatoes are dutiable at 15c. per bushel, instead of 25 per cent.—On coal oil the duty is reduced from 6 cents to 5. If the United States will not reduce their duty on soft coal to 40 cents per ton, Canada will put a duty on anthracite; but if the States reduce their duty to 40 cents, instead of increasing it as proposed in the Dingley bill, Canada will reduce hers from 60 cents to 40.

Grey and white cotton goods, now 22 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 23 per cent., may be said to be increased to 25 per cent. all round. Colored printed fabrics of cotton are reduced to 35 per cent., and while linen damask and towels, now 35, are raised to 60, but manufacturers of hemp, flax and jute, now dutiable at 20 per cent. are increased to 25. Woolen yarns are reduced from five cents per pound and 20 ad valorem to 15 per cent.; blankets and flannels, now five cents per pound and 25 per cent., and clothing, ready-made, composed wholly or in part of wool, now five cents per pound and 30 per cent., are all combined at 35 per cent. Two-ply and three-ply ingrain carpets, and treble ingrain three-ply and two-ply carpets, are increased to 35 per cent. Caps, hats, muffs, capes, coats, cloaks, and other fur goods, now 23 per cent., will be 30 per cent.

Binder twine has been reduced from 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to 10, and the duty on cotton cordage and twine is lowered 5 per cent. Binder twine is to be free next year. Raw sugar is unchanged, but the tariff on refined is reduced from \$1.14 to \$1 per hundred. This, the Finance Minister expects, will cheapen sugar to Canadians by \$400,000 yearly. On cigarettes an extra dollar per pound is placed; cut tobacco is increased five cents and manufactured ten cents. Mr. Fielding explained that except on intoxicants and tobacco it was proposed to reduce the duties one-eighth at once and one-quarter in a year on goods imported from Great Britain, and from any other country willing to put herself on the same terms as Great Britain.

The duty on pig, wrought and scrap iron has been cut down. While the customs duty is lowered, bounties are to be larger, so as to compensate. On scrap iron and steel it is proposed to reduce the duties from \$4 to \$1.50 a ton, and the duty on pig iron, kentledge, etc., from \$4 to \$2.50 per ton, while iron and steel ingots, blooms and slabs, billets and puddled bars, are to be reduced from \$5 to \$4 per ton. Farm wagons and field implements are made 25 per cent. all round. There are considerable decreases in the iron duties. Scythes and small field implements are reduced from 35 to 25 per cent., and axes to 30 per cent.

On the whole some revenue from reductions is anticipated, though partial compensation through an expansion of trade is expected. On raw leaf tobacco the Government expects to raise \$1,000,000 a year.

The loss of revenue on iron is estimated at \$217,000; on cottons, \$66,000, and on woolens, \$275,000; on the whole, a loss of \$700,000 from reductions is expected. The Trusts are not forgotten. Power is taken to put on the free list any article which may become a subject of combiners' artifice to raise the price. If this be carried out in earnest, it will find plenty of work for those who may be charged with the suppression of combines. A machinery for carrying out reciprocity is provided, whenever any country is in the mood to take advantage of it. If none be so disposed, they are at liberty to go their way and we ours.