

Extracts from the REPORT of the Committee on Manufactures, to Congress, on the petitions and memorials respecting an increase of duties on imports, Jan. 31, 1828.

[After reciting the circumstances, &c. under which the Committee were appointed and required to act, the Report proceeds:—]

They have examined little short of thirty witnesses, and the testimony of each, hastily written out by way of question and answer, and annexed to this report, will show what facts have been collected by the examination, as well as the extent of the labor which the committee have performed. The testimony of each witness, after it was taken, has been carefully read over with him, and so corrected as to meet the full assent of the witness as to its accuracy.

The leading subjects presented to the committee for additional protection, are iron and several manufactures of it, wool and its fabrics, hemp and some of the manufactures from it, flax and its manufactures, domestic distilled spirits from grain, particular descriptions of glass, and fine and printed cottons. Upon all these subjects, witnesses have been examined, and their testimony, herewith reported, comprises the evidence, upon each subject, which the committee have taken under the resolution of the House, and embodies most of the information upon which they have acted in determining the features of the bill which they have agreed upon.

The first subject which will be found in the bill, is that of iron, and considering the importance of the article, as one of both national and individual necessity, the changes in the present rates of duty are comparatively very light. An increase upon "iron in bars, not manufactured, in whole, or in part, by rolling," of from ninety cents upon 112 pounds, to one cent per pound; upon "iron in bars, manufactured in whole or in part by rolling," of \$7 per ton of 2240 pounds; and upon "pig iron," of 12 1-2 cents per 112 pounds, beyond the present rates of duty; are the most material changes upon this article.

The next subject in order, is that of wool and woollens. To these subjects the greater part of the testimony of the witnesses has been directed, and the Committee have used every effort in their power to obtain precise information as to the facts as they do actually exist in relation to the interests both of the wool grower and the manufacturer of wool. The real importance of these subjects to those sections of the country where wool is grown, and in which the manufactories are located, the feeling which has for some time agitated the public mind throughout the whole country, in relation, on the one side, to the necessity of further protection to them, and, on the other side, to the injurious effects which such a measure would have upon the purchasers of woollen fabrics, have all conspired to induce this exertion on the part of the Committee.

In relation to unmanufactured wool of domestic growth, the Committee consider it to be fully proved that the present prices, in our markets, are unusually low, and the sales very dull; and that these effects are produced by the combined influence of the large importations of foreign woollen goods. Contrary to the opinions of some of the witnesses, the committee are strongly convinced that the provision of the present law, permitting the introduction of foreign wool, costing not exceeding 10 cents per pound in the foreign market, at the almost nominal duty of 15 per cent. ad valorem, does admit wool, paying this duty, and invoiced at and below this price, which, in quality and use, materially conflicts with the common native wool of this country.

This opinion is strongly corroborated by the presentation, by one of the witnesses to the committee, of five different specimens of foreign wool, imported into, and during the last Fall selling in, the Boston market, at 6 cents to 14 cents per pound.

The following positions, as relating to the manufacture of woollen goods, the committee believe themselves warranted in deducing, from the evidence they have taken, and they depend upon the evidence and opinions of the witnesses for the soundness of them:

1st. That the manufacture of woollen goods in this country, is, at this time, a business laboring under severe depressions, and attended with loss more severe upon the finer qualities.

2d. That these depressions are owing, in a very great degree, to the excessive and irregular importations of foreign woollen goods into our markets: thus causing a fluctuation in and an uncertainty of price for those goods, more injurious to the American manufacturer than even the depression of price which these importations produce.

3d. The difference between the prices of wool, of the same quality, in this country and in England, is, at the present time, about fifty per cent. in favor of the latter country.

4th. That the cost of the raw wool in this country is about one-half of the cost of the fabric, when prepared for the market, as a general rule applying to most kinds of cloths.

5th. That, if the cost of the wool and the cost of the foreign materials used for dyeing, were the same in both countries, the process of manufacturing the wool into cloth, fitted for