

at 5/25.
29. VI. 83.



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Board of Trade

May 18 1883

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, transmitting a draft of a proposed new Swiss Tariff, and requesting that Lord Grenville may be furnished with any observations the Board of Trade have to make as to the effect of the proposed new duties on British trade.

In reply I am to request that you will inform Lord Grenville that it appears to the Board of Trade that the effect of the proposed changes will on the whole be prejudicial to the interests of

The Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs





the British Trade. While certain reductions are proposed to be made in the Import duties on Chemical Products and Pig Iron, the rates of duty on cotton yarn and piece goods, which are the principal articles of British Export are to be considerably increased; the duties also on cutlery and fine iron are to be raised, though the increased rates will still be below those levied on the importation of similar articles, into such countries as France, Belgium, or Germany, still the proposed change would be a distinct retrograde step on the part of a country that has hitherto been considered as upholding Free Trade principles.

This

This Department would view
 with regret any increase in the Import
 duties of Switzerland not only as
 being prejudicial to British trade in
 themselves, but also especially as
 regards the tariff "B" as tending to
 lead to a further increase of duties
 and to complications and a war of
 tariffs with other countries.

I have
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 (sg) R. Giffen



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New Swiss Tariff

Return of the Rates of Import Duty levied in Switzerland upon some of the principal articles of the Produce and Manufacture of the United Kingdom under the present Customs Tariff and of the Rates proposed to be levied under the new Tariff Act passed.

Principal Articles	Old Duty	New Duty
	Per Cwt. £. s. d.	Per cwt. £. s. d.
Woven Manufacture:		
Cotton Tissues, unbleached 38 threads or less	1. 7½	4. 1
" " unbleached, more than 38 threads	1. 7½	6. 6
" " bleached	6. 6	10. 2
" " Coverlets	6. 6	12. 2½
" " Hosiery & Haberdashery	6. 6	10. 2
" " Lace and Embroidery	12. 2½	1. 0. 4
Metals. Unwrought and Wrought		
Iron and Steel wares	1. 2¾	1. 7½
Iron Cast, wares, coarse	. 10	1. 2
" " " other	. 10	2. 0½
		over



Principal Articles	Old Duty per cent.	New Duty per cent.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Metals Unwrought and Wrought;		
Iron wrought, painted, polished, barnished, enamelled or nickelled)	6.6	8.1½
Cutlery of all kinds	6.6	12.2½
India Rubber & Gutta Percha		
Elastic Tissues	6.6	12.2½
Articles of Food.		
Beer in bottles	2.10¼	4.1
Miscellaneous Articles		
Straw plaiting for hats	1.7½	4.1
Straw hats, untrimmed	6.6	16.3

Commercial Department

Board of Trade

May 11 1883