

TELEGRAMS —  
HINDHEAD.

1 Ap. 20/85.

UNDERSHAW,

HINDHEAD,

HASLEMERE.

Sir

I fear that it will take something more than Mr. Brown's assurance to convince me that I have made a mistake in figures. He has cried 'Wolf!' so loud and so often when no wolf was there that it is difficult now to treat his cry very seriously. Last year he challenged my figures given in a speech at Edinburgh, and though they were afterwards shown to be absolutely correct he has, instead of expressing regret, simply gone on to make further charges. I have put my views and my figures before the electorate in the form of a pamphlet, and every man can form his own judgment as to whether they are right or wrong. The figures relating to the new point

raised by Mr Brown, namely the export of woollen and worsted manufactures to foreign protective countries (excluding British possessions) are given on page 32, and are extracted from the Blue Book. They certainly differ widely from those given by Mr Brown, but are not necessarily wrong on that account.

If instead of turning pages this way and that Mr A. L. Brown was for one single day to put party politics out of his head and to take the opinion of his brother manufacturers and of the workers on the mere question of trade I am convinced that he could satisfy himself before evening that neither employer nor employed have improved their position during these thirty years. That is my contention and if Mr Brown will admit that, I am prepared to make any concessions regarding tops and noils or any other matter of detail which he may desire. He is like the man who could not see the wood

on account of the trees.

Mr A. L. Brown wants to know where all the workers are gone who have been, owing to free imports, driven out of our staple industries, as <sup>many</sup> the wool-spinners & weavers have out of Galashiels & Hawick. His political leader, Mr Campbell-Bannerman has told us clearly enough. They have joined the ranks of casual labour, and they form that 12 million of our population who were stated by that politician to live always on the edge of destitution. I hold that they are the victims of our free-import system and that the work which should be theirs is being done abroad. To try and set this injustice right is the chief end of the tariff.

reform movement, which is as much, or more, in the interests of the workmen as of the employers.

I gather from the last sentence of Mr. Brown's letter that I am not to have his vote at the election. I can reconcile myself to that. But I still have hopes that there are a sufficient number of unprejudiced men with minds open to reason in these three towns to carry our cause to success in spite of Mr. Brown's opposition.

Yours faithfully

Arthur Conan Doyle.