

termed a clap-trap motion. In the present instance, he understood that the farmers could be benefitted by the remission of this duty. The farmers believed that they could secure a certain advantage by cultivating tobacco, although perhaps if the matter was examined very closely, it would be seen that these people were deceiving themselves, and that this industry was not so remunerative as they imagined. The only advantage which the farmers could obtain from raising tobacco was this: they grew a considerable quantity of it, and the whole of this was placed on the market at reduced prices, because it was inferior in quality to the foreign article. All they could say was that they could sell it. It was produced by the farmer, placed on the market and mixed with foreign tobacco, and did not have the duty paid on it. Up to the present time the duty on foreign tobacco had been high enough to protect sufficiently the Canadian tobacco. Nevertheless, the people complained of this tax. He considered that it would be a very difficult matter to remove this tax, though it contributed very little to the revenue. Perhaps the duty paid on home-grown tobacco did not even pay the cost of collection, but this did not imply that it ought to be entirely removed. He believed that the time would arrive when an equilibrium would be established between the diminution of the duty on Canadian tobacco and a slight increase on the imported article. In the county which he had the honour to represent, a very considerable quantity of tobacco was raised, and these farmers thought that the cultivation of this tobacco was advantageous to them. This was the prominent fact before him; and he had but recently placed on the table of the House a petition from a number of his constituents, praying that the duty on foreign tobacco should be increased. He did not wish to say whether his constituents were right or wrong in this particular, but this was their impression. They thought that it would be advantageous to have the home-grown article protected, as they raised it. He had his duty to perform, and he was sent here to meet the desires and views of his constituents. He was

bound to secure justice for them as far as lay in his power. This tax had been imposed by the late Government; and the present Government had exempted from duty the tobacco raised by Canadians for home consumption. This was a very considerable privilege, but it did not extend to the article sold for commercial purposes. This tax on imported tobacco was legitimately levied in order to meet the requirements of the country. He believed that the hon. member for Portneuf had a large share in securing the exemption of home-grown tobacco used by the farmers themselves. The present duty on home-grown tobacco was little enough; and, inasmuch as the collection of the duty on Canadian tobacco cost nearly as much as this portion of the revenue amounted to, and as quite a number of farmers in his county desired that Canadian tobacco should be freed from duty, and as he was glad to be able to meet the wishes of this class of the population which he had the honour to represent, he proposed to vote for the motion before the House.

MR. CARTWRIGHT said that before this motion was put to the vote he desired to say a few words on this very important question, as to how the revenue of the country might be affected if the motion prevailed. He doubted if it were possible to have introduced a motion of this kind at a period when the revenue was less prepared to allow any dangerous experiment of the sort to be made. Probably the House, or at least some members of it were not aware, though he believed that it was mentioned once or twice that evening, that nearly two million of dollars of the existing revenue were derived from tobacco. The actual revenue from this source during the past year, was no less than \$1,625,000 from that quarter. Those acquainted with the existing state of the law, and should know the extraordinary privilege which had been conceded to persons engaged in the growth of tobacco in this country, might well be surprised that under the circumstances an attempt should be made to deprive the revenue of this country of the sum of from \$500,000 to \$800,000 per annum, on so extremely flimsy a pretext. As