

it had that meaning. Was it supposed that that policy could produce any effect in securing a modification of American trade regulations. On the contrary, common sense would lead them to suppose that it would lead to reprisals.

MR. MACDONNELL: I do not think the question of Reciprocity is in any way connected with the coal interest.

MR. SPEAKER: The present proposal is one for reciprocity of tariff, as far as it goes. The hon. gentleman is generalizing very much, and in my opinion, is going too far from the question before the House; but it is very hard to restrain the discussion.

MR. CHARLTON said that with respect to this question of coal, he desired to point out the absurdity of the expectation that a duty of 75c. per ton on Nova Scotia coal would lead to any large consumption of that article in Canada. The best Blossburgh could be laid down in Belleville at \$3.75 per ton. Nova Scotia coal could be laid down in Montreal at \$3.78. Bituminous coal from Ohio could be laid down in Toronto at \$3; and the best Pennsylvania coal could be laid down in Chicago at \$3.85.

MR. MACDONNELL: What is your authority?

MR. CHARLTON said the hon. gentleman could refute his statement if he pleased. He protested against the interruption of the hon. member. If this statement was true, how utterly absurd it was to believe that a duty of 75c. per ton would lead to the transportation of Nova Scotia coal from Belleville, west, in competition with those kinds of American coal. It would be imposing a tax on the country; and while it would be giving a very small advantage to Nova Scotia, it would add from 5 to 7½ per cent. on an average, according to the representatives of manufacturers, to the cost of goods manufactured in Western Canada; it would be a most unjust, injurious, and absurd tax. He would attempt to show that the duty on grain exported from Canada to the United States, was, in all cases, paid by the consumer, and he would take, as an illustration, the article of barley, because, if there was

one description of grain more than another on which a plausible argument could be constructed, that our farmers were not repaid the American duty, it was that article. In the last four years and a-half we had exported 37,215,000 bushels of barley, and received therefor \$28,732,600, while we had imported only 767,000 bushels, paying therefor \$376,000. In other words, we had exported 48 times more than we imported, and had received 76 times as much from what we exported as we had paid for what we imported. During the period of reciprocity we had received, on an average, 75½c. per bushel for barley.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member is discussing a question not at all relevant. He is opening up the whole question of Protection. If the House chooses to have that question reopened it could do so; but if the hon. member speaks on this question, I must permit every hon. gentleman to speak to every conceivable point involved.

MR. CHARLTON said his object was to answer some statements made by the hon. member for Cumberland concerning the effect of reciprocity during the period of Free-trade. The country received 75½c. per bushel for barley, and, since that period, it had received 78 and eight tenths cents per bushel, or 3¼c. more during the period when a duty of 15c. per bushel was imported on barley by the American Government than when barley was free. That exploded the idea that the producer paid the duty. He would close his remarks by again referring to the fact that this duty on coal, absurd as it unquestionably was, was not a particle more absurd than a duty on any single interest,—on manufactured goods, on grain, or in favour of the interests clamouring for Protection; and it was only when all those interests were combined in one resolution, that they had the slightest appearance of respectability or of plausibility. He would vote against this duty like the hon. member for Northumberland, but for different reasons from those he had stated. That hon. gentleman said his reason was that this was not part of a general plan. He (Mr. Charlton)