

north shore below Quebec, which many considered, wrongly, to be at the other end of the world, and near the North Pole, and almost inhospitable. Tobacco was raised in Charlevoix county, but not profitably; and why? Because the farmers could not pay the duty, though they raised, however, enough tobacco for local consumption. The hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue should have known that tobacco was raised in Charlevoix county, as he had had seized the other day 4,000lbs. of tobacco in the parishes of the Baie de St. Paul and Les Eboulements. This was not foreign or imported tobacco, but it was raised in these parishes. If the hon. gentleman had gone down the St. Lawrence, he might remember the parish of Eboulements, which was on the top and side of the mountains, a place covered with snow during six months of the year; and, nevertheless, tobacco was cultivated to advantage in this place, as well as cereals. If this could be done on the north shore, below Quebec, it could be accomplished with greater reason and advantage on the south shore. In the county of Dorchester, which he formerly represented, tobacco was raised for domestic consumption, and not for other objects, as they did not wish to pay the duty. At Quebec, in the parish of Ste. Foye, tobacco was raised in great quantities. He remembered a gentleman who, in this locality, grew sufficient tobacco to sell and export it. The duty was raised very considerably, and this gentleman was then obliged to abandon, in great measure, the cultivation of this article. The same statement applied, with equal truth, to other portions of the Province, and these facts showed that the statement of the hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue, to the effect that the climate of the Province of Quebec was not favourable to the cultivation of tobacco, was incorrect. The hon. gentleman had been badly informed. If this duty were removed, they would soon see whether tobacco could be raised in Canada. On the other hand, the hon. gentleman said that if the duty on home-grown tobacco was removed, the importation of tobacco would be in a great degree lessened, because tobacco would then be raised

in Canada in sufficient quantity to supply the wants of the different families in the country. The gentleman here admitted that the climate of Canada was favourable to the growth of tobacco, and, as a consequence, he (Mr. Laurier) feared that the revenue would suffer if this duty were removed as was requested. The hon. member for Beauce did not demand the perpetual repeal of this duty, but merely for a few years, until our farmers became accustomed to the cultivation of this article. He was extremely sorry to hear the hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue depreciate the climate of Lower Canada. The hon. gentleman said that this climate was not favourable to the growth of wheat, and that they were obliged to import a large quantity of wheat into the Province of Quebec. There was no doubt that wheat was brought into this Province, but the hon. gentleman should remember that there was a time when they not only raised enough wheat for the consumption of the population of Lower Canada, but even sufficient to export a very great quantity of it every year. Of late years, this growth of wheat in the Province had not been so extensive; but this was due to the presence of the weevil, which had committed great ravages there as well as in other countries. In consequence of this scourge, the farmers of Lower Canada had partially abandoned the raising of wheat, and devoted their attention to other grains, such as barley and oats, and to roots, in order that they might at no time lack a crop. He would ask hon. members from the Province of Quebec, on both sides of the House, whether it was not a fact that the growth of wheat was now very considerable in the Province of Quebec. He knew that in his part of the country, the raising of wheat had increased very much; and he had only yesterday received a letter from a farmer, in the county of Rimouski, who stated that owing to the fact that the present season was so propitious, the farmers had sown double the usual breadth of wheat and other grains this year, and this was done precisely because they knew that wheat came to full maturity in this Province. Hap-

MR. LANGEVIN.