

Mr. KNOWLES. Where?

Mr. SCHAFFNER. In this House.

Mr. KNOWLES. Was there ever a vote on it?

Mr. SCHAFFNER. Certainly there was a vote on it.

Mr. KNOWLES. I question the truth of the hon. gentleman's statement. There never was a vote on it in this House.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. I say most definitely that there was a vote taken in this House to reduce the tariff on agricultural implements from 17½ to 10 per cent, and the hon. gentleman himself spoke against it.

Mr. KNOWLES. It is the old circumstance of our Tory friends.

Mr. FOSTER. (North Toronto) Now when was the start made?

Mr. KNOWLES. What my hon. friends lack in argument they make up in noise. I still make the statement that there was not a vote taken on that question in the House. The member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Meighen) who wishes to interrupt cannot question the accuracy of my statement, because he was not here at that time.

Mr. MEIGHEN. I read your speech.

Mr. KNOWLES. Strange though it may be, we got along at that time without the magnificent and wonderful mind of my hon. friend (Mr. Meighen), and I think we can get along equally well to-day. I will not cross swords with that hon. gentleman, because his word will not be accepted as against mine when he was not a member of the House at the time. I say again that a vote was not taken.

Mr. MEIGHEN. If the hon. gentleman will say he did not speak against that motion I will accept his word for the present.

Mr. KNOWLES. I am not dealing with my hon. friend's acceptance of the matter.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. KNOWLES. Hon. gentlemen laugh. The weaker the case is the louder they laugh, and they will laugh a great deal louder before I am through. I make the statement that in this House since the hon. gentleman (Mr. Schaffner) came here—and he was here one year before me—there never has been a vote to reduce the duty on agricultural implements. What my hon. friend is referring to—and he must know it from the records—is this: A more or less politically cowardly move was made in committee—

Mr. SCHAFFNER.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. KNOWLES. I say politically cowardly. I do not accuse the hon. gentleman personally, I say it was cowardly politics to bring up a motion in committee of this House, where hon. members voted on it and did not have any record made as to how they voted. I make the statement still, that there never was in this House on the subject referred to, a vote such as the hon. gentleman speaks of. If he will state that there was a vote in the committee, I will say he is correct.

Mr. LENNOX. That is mere quibbling.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. I still say a vote was taken in this House. Where else would the committee be?

Mr. KNOWLES. My hon. friend means the building, I suppose?

Mr. SCHAFFNER. I mean in this particular chamber.

Mr. KNOWLES. Then if my hon. friend will say a vote taken in this chamber—

Mr. SCHAFFNER. Yes, a vote taken in this particular chamber.

Mr. KNOWLES. There is many a thing done in this chamber.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. In this chamber during a session of the House. What more do you want?

Mr. KNOWLES. What more do I want, nothing except to repeat what I just said that there has not been any vote in this House such as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Schaffner) stated. If my hon. friends opposite want to haggle over the point they can do so, but the question can be decided by the record. The record shows that the resolution was never voted on in this House, but in committee. And I say it shows political cowardice on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite that they did not dare to divide this House when the question came before it. Had that course been followed, the present Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Commerce would have voted with us on that occasion, for in the committee they did on that occasion vote with the Liberal party, and practically all the Conservatives on the committee so voted. It was a political dodge to deceive the farmers in the prairie provinces. They were afraid to divide the House on the question, and since that, there has been no opportunity afforded for taking a vote by which hon. gentlemen could place themselves on record. More than that, I want to say, that if on any occasion hon. gentlemen opposite bring up the same cheap clap-trap in order to deceive the farmers, my stand will be with the party which sides with