

glad the vote is to be taken on a clear issue, as I cannot vote for a protective duty.

Mr. COOK—I will not detain the House very long. Probably I would not have spoken but for the remarks of the hon. member for Carlton. I am puzzled to know how lumbermen can be protected unless you give them a bonus. Nearly everything used in their operations is imported. Most of the provisions are imported.

Mr. PALMER rose to a point of order. The hon. gentleman was referring to a previous debate.

Mr. SPEAKER said the hon. gentleman was out of order.

Mr. COOK continued—The mover of this amendment stated that he had a conversation with some lumbermen who told him that it was to the interest of the trade that it should be protected, and that, although most of the articles which they used were subject to an increasing rate of duty in recent years, they were not any dearer on that account. The great staple article used is pork, of which we import very largely for the use of the shanties. There is a specific duty of \$2 per barrel upon pork, and an *ad valorem* duty of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. upon the barrels, which brings it up to a considerable sum. Some arguments may be used by hon. members who represent the lumbering trade in this House, that from the fact of the importation of lumber it is necessary to protect that trade. In 1871 there was a volume of importation into this country, subject to an *ad valorem* duty of  $17\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., of \$51,403.

In 1875 we find the quantity had very much increased, the amount of dutiable lumber being \$396,086. There was exported from Canada in 1871, lumber amounting to \$213,352,211; in 1872, \$23,685,382; in 1873, \$23,586,816; in 1874, \$26,817,715. In 1875, when there was such depression, especially in the lumber trade, we find \$24,781,780, making for the last five years, \$126,224,904 of lumber exported. It was stated that there should be duties on lumber imported from Michigan, but I would like hon. gentlemen to know that most of the lumbermen in Michigan are Canadians. When they

Mr. SINCLAIR.

bring their lumber to Quebec we have the benefit of the carrying-trade and the money being left here. The amount of money invested in the lumber trade, less that which was passed out for manufacture, made a volume of \$27,000,000, or nearly one-third of the whole floating capital of the Dominion of Canada.

A vast amount of money is invested in mills and in the operations of the lumber trade, in which, according to the census of 1871, there were interested directly about 250,000 people of this country; then perhaps there is double this number indirectly interested in it. The great depression that exists has been without doubt due to over-manufacture and the falling off in the demand of the American and home markets, where the commercial crisis has been still more severe than here. This interest should be fairly dealt with by hon. members. The Finance Minister very properly said that it was only second in importance to any industry in the Dominion, and I accordingly hope that this resolution will be supported by such a minority that all who propose a protective tariff will abandon the project.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD—Mr. Speaker—My hon. friend from Montreal West and myself row in the same boat for a similar purpose. My hon. friend was fortunate enough to catch your eye first, and on the whole I am rather pleased that he was successful in so attracting your attention, because it was of infinitely more importance than an hon. member occupying his position in Parliament should move such a resolution than that I or any member of the regular Opposition should have done so. It is a fair, straightforward and perfect want of confidence motion in the policy of the Government. It is a censure upon its policy, and while this might be expected from those who like myself have not the good fortune to place implicit confidence, or any great confidence, in the Administration, the position of my hon. friend adds to its significance. He recently came to Parliament—and he was recently elected as a supporter of the present Administration, as it were, by my hon. friend at the head of the Government, as his special candidate for West Mon-