

error also. Now, the hon. gentleman intimates that the manufacturer of these bolts is a Grit. I wonder if the manufacturer of democrat wagons is a Tory. If he is, then a clerical error was brought into play to help a Tory, but a clerical error will not do duty in order to help a Grit.

Mr. SPROULE. The mistake the hon. gentleman makes is in supposing that this is all done with a selfish motive, for the purpose either of converting a man to Conservative principles, as they seem to think, or to strengthen themselves in the coming election. Hon. gentlemen would have done well to make an inquiry themselves into this case before coming to any conclusion. I think there is honesty in human nature yet. Here is a man engaged in a business that furnishes employment to a number of girls and boys who are earning their daily bread by these means, and from a close calculation made by the men engaged in this business they come to the conclusion that in the event of the protection being insufficient on the articles they manufacture, they will be obliged to stop work and to throw all these hands out of employment. This question, therefore, becomes a very serious matter to all those who are earning their bread and butter by this work. I was in that shop myself, and that man laid before me a calculation which I believe was correct. I have reason to believe that he is an honest and honourable man, notwithstanding that he is a Reformer, and that he is a truthful man. He said to me: I am to-day obliged, if I continue this business, to put in another machine that will cost me \$500, but I will not do it until I know what the condition of the market will be; until this tariff question is settled. It is a great question with me whether I will be able in future to continue this business on account of the reduction in the protection, and if I find I am losing money, of course I must close up. Now, if he does close it up the result will be that he will throw numbers of these young people out of employment. There are little girls handling these bolts, and it requires just the same labour to handle a bolt that weighs one-fiftieth of an ounce as it does to handle one that weighs an ounce, and when it takes four of them to weigh an ounce there is four times the amount of labour required. Therefore, I think in all justice there ought to be a larger protection. I do not say that the protection is too small, but if it is only sufficient on the large bolt it is certainly not sufficient on the smaller one, because in handling the smaller bolts there is much more labour, and they have to be much more attentive to their duty, and finer machinery is required for their manufacture. If it is a fact, as I believe it is, that in the event of this duty being put so low that this factory will have to stop work, it becomes a very serious question for large numbers of

Mr. McMULLEN.

people who earn their bread and butter in the business.

Item agreed to.

Knife blades, or knife blanks, in the rough, unhandled, for use by electro-platers, 10 per cent ad valorem.

Mr. FOSTER. Strike out the word "unhandled."

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What is your object in striking out the word "unhandled"?

Mr. FOSTER. The articles come in not with handles on them, but there are blades with irons which are to make the basis of the handles. In some of the ports they are considered to be handled, but really they are in the rough.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I desire to draw attention to the item of surgical instruments, on which a duty is proposed to be imposed of 15 per cent ad valorem. On all possible grounds, surgical instruments should be admitted perfectly free. The hon. Finance Minister knows it is of very great importance to the medical profession, and also to those who have occasion to call in the services of surgeons, that surgical instruments should be of the best possible quality, and it seems to me if there is any article which should be placed on the free list it is that of surgical instruments required to be used for the relief of persons suffering either from complicated diseases or from severe accident. Wholly and entirely apart from the question of protection or from policy, we should not place any duty on such articles.

Mr. FOSTER. I recognize that there is something in what the hon. gentleman has said, and that we should proceed in the direction of making the duty as low as possible. But these are not surgical appliances, but the tools of professional men, and these professional men have no more right to get in their tools duty free than have labouring men or artisans. They are professional men, well educated, who have their profession, and who obtain good pay for the practice of their profession, and when the Government admit surgical instruments at a low rate of duty they are doing all that is necessary. Surgical instruments were formerly 20 per cent, and we have made them 15 per cent, and I cannot agree to the plea that they should be made free. Why should we charge 20 per cent or 30 per cent on the tools of an artisan and allow a professional man who may charge \$50 or \$100 or even \$500 in the case of the hon. gentleman for taking off a leg, to obtain his instruments duty free.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. If it became necessary that I should have my leg taken off, I should desire it to be done with as well-tempered an instrument as could be