

sacks on account of the way in which they are piled up, and how and where is the marking going to be done? It is an impossibility. The cement is usually billed by the firm that sells it; it is marked at the laid down price on the track at the place where it is sold; it is quoted so by the cement manufacturer; he is the man that pays the duty, he is the man who will gather the bags and he is the man who becomes responsible and not the Canadian importer who receives it from him. The manufacturer will simply have an agent who will be ready to take this particular oath in order to pass these sacks and the man with conscientious scruples who desires to do the right thing will not be able to take that oath, and thus you will not have uniformity in the prices. It is for the government to say here and now whether or not they intend to levy the duty of 10 cents a barrel on cement. I hope they will do so, and I trust that they will charge the 2½ cents on each bag every time it comes in. If that is done the manufacturer, the importer and the exporter will understand it and no complications will arise.

Mr. PATERSON. The hon. gentleman (M. Cockshutt) is making a strong plea for the American manufacturers.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. I ask for a duty of 10 cents per barrel on cement.

Mr. MILLER. I met Mr. Daniel Knechtel, president and manager of the Hanover Cement Company, who was very desirous of having a larger duty on cement. I knew that one of the requests of the cement manufacturers was that there should be a duty on the sacks, and I had been informed that the sack would only pay duty on entering the first time. I asked Mr. Knechtel whether that being the case such a duty would be of any particular advantage or of sufficient advantage to be worth while. I have no doubt that if Mr. Knechtel were here he would ask for a much larger increase of protection than this will give, but he said in reply to my question that such an added protection as is being given now would be a very great advantage. He said that a large number of the sacks would not be returned, and that often times a contract was awarded to an American rather than to Canadian manufacturer on account of a difference of possibly a fraction of a cent upon the barrel. In this instance the manufacturer would no doubt like to have a much larger increase of protection, but he looks upon this as being an increase that is certainly worth while.

Mr. CRAWFORD. In my opinion the cement manufacturers of Canada do not need this protection at all. We have every facility in this country for manufacturing cement and it is an outrage and an imposition on the people of this country to impose any such tax upon them. I have been informed that the cement manufactures to-day

Mr. COCKSHUTT.

are charging double the cost of manufacturing this article. I have got that from a direct source and I think it is practically a straight steal from the people of this country to impose any extra tariff on cement at the present time. The cement manufacturers of this country have every facility at hand and they ought to be able to produce and sell their cement as cheaply as in any other country. Why should we consumers of this particular material be imposed upon in this way? I do not think it is fair, looking at it from the consumers standpoint, particularly when the manufacturers are taking advantage of their position as I am informed they are doing. I was told by a cement manufacturer not long ago that they expected to make 50 per cent on the capital invested.

Mr. CLARE. He was trying to sell stock to you.

Mr. BARR. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Crawford) if there is a cement factory from one end of this Dominion to the other that is paying a dividend to-day? It is within my own knowledge that such is not the case; and if it is not the case, it seems to me to be a proper thing that there should be some protection afforded to this industry. We know that the Americans dump their surplus cement just as they do their surplus of other commodities to the disadvantage of the Canadians, and if this is continued the probability is that many of our cement works will be closed up, the result of which would be that the consumers would be obliged to pay higher prices. I do think, therefore, under these circumstances, that the existing conditions are most unfair. They will now endeavour to get back their bags, if they will stand the wear and tear of a number of trips to the Canadian side. I venture to say there is no reason why they could not produce bags that would probably stand 100 trips; and, therefore, whilst we have, in name, protection from the United States, it is no more than in name, and the result is that it will take an extra staff sufficient to eat up all the profits we get as far as that is concerned.

Mr. MILLER. I think my hon. friend from Portage la Prairie (Mr. Crawford) has been misinformed as to the facts. I do not think that there is a single cement factory in Canada which pays dividends of 50 per cent, or even of 10 per cent. I do not know of any that are really making any profit at all. What is the reason of that? We can and we do make as good cement in Canada as can be made in any other part of the world, and in some respects we have as good facilities. We have the raw material, the marl and the clay, of just as good quality and just as easily obtainable as they have in the United States; but in the United States, where they manufacture cement most largely, and particularly in the state