

told that you could not buy a barrel of sugar, that the wealthy people had bought up the sugar and were storing it away. That is a kind of panic that will pass off in a week or so. People will come to their senses and will see the impropriety of such a course.

Mr. TURGEON: No member is more anxious to assist the Government in putting their measures through than the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Turgeon). I belong to a province upon which my hon. friend who has just taken his seat seems to have cast the imputation that every one in it is without a conscience. I must say that I am one who feels that he has a conscience. I have a conscience especially for my poor farmers and fishermen who in the carrying on of their hard pursuits have to use sugar for themselves and families. Sugar is a necessary food which cannot be replaced except by other ingredients which are more costly. I was surprised to hear the hon. Minister of Finance say yesterday that sugar had been among the very first articles to be taxed. I would have expected that the increase of customs on spirituous liquors would have been much greater than the minister and the Government have made it. It is true I have heard the minister say that he has consulted experts and has been advised that if he raised the tariff any higher it would stop the increase of revenue. I do not intend to compare my experience and consultation with experts with that of the Minister of Finance, but in my belief, after having consulted my people before coming to Ottawa on this very question, the higher the Government makes the duty on spirituous liquors, removing it from articles of food and necessity such as sugar, the more he will meet the wishes of the people at large and he will certainly not stop the increase of revenue. People who must have liquor will get it at any price. It may be said that it is often used medicinally, but any person who uses it for that purpose will be willing to pay a little more for it. I hope if it is at all possible that the Minister will still reconsider the imposition of the increased duties on sugar and coffee, I would favour instead a further increase in the duty on spirits or even on tobacco. Something has been said about an income tax. I would certainly second any proposition of that kind. I agree with the Minister of Finance that an increase in postal rates would be of no consequence.

Mr. BURNHAM: Is the minister quite convinced that the people of this country wish to contribute in the way he has sug-

gested by an extra impost on sugar? Because, surely, he would not have put on that extra impost but for a desire to gratify this ambition on the part of the people.

Mr. McCOIG: While the question of ways and means of raising revenue under the existing circumstances is under discussion, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following statement made by Mr. A. M. Fraser, provisional director of the Essex, Kent and Elgin Tobacco Growers' Association:

In Canada during the past year the price of all manufactured tobacco was advanced 10 per cent, while the price to the Canadian grower was reduced 30 per cent, thus increasing the profits of manufacturers more than \$10,000,000 a year. A customs duty of 30 cents a pound would produce a revenue of about \$5,000,000, and I am sure the people of Canada will appreciate a tax upon tobacco in preference to any additional taxes on the necessaries of life.

For the benefit of the House and the Finance Minister in particular, I may say that the last report of the Department of Trade and Commerce shows that there was imported into Canada in one year 13,753,141 pounds of raw leaf tobacco. If a tax were put on that article, it would not only encourage the tobacco industry in Canada but assist in giving us the revenue which I feel satisfied the minister desires at the present time. I understand that the Bill which the House is asked to pass gives an increased protection to the manufacturer, but no increase to the producer that will put the manufacturer in a position to further dictate the price he shall pay to the Canadian producer, and will give him even greater advantages over the American manufacturer than he now has. If the minister would consider a further tax on the raw leaf tobacco coming into this country, he would not only receive the revenue which he is anxious to get, but would be encouraging an industry which up to the present time has largely been discouraged in the counties of Essex, Kent and Elgin, and I would be very glad if the minister would give this matter some consideration. I understand that the tobacco growers of the different counties have already petitioned him, as well as the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Inland Revenue, who I believe assured them last session that he would take up this matter with his colleagues and give every consideration possible to the tobacco growers of the Dominion.