

and less largely by the people of New Brunswick and the other Provinces. It is proposed to couple with the duties which have been already mentioned, this provision: that in the case of corn kiln-dried, or to be kiln-dried, and ground into meal for human food, a rebate be given to those who mill it, of 90 per cent. on the original duty paid, and that Customs regulations shall be prepared and put into force for the carrying out of this resolution. It is also proposed that molasses, which to-day bears a duty of 15 per cent. when imported direct from the place of production, and which is practically confined to the tests between 40 and 55—it is proposed that the duty on molasses shall be lowered about one-half, and that a duty of 1½ cents per gallon, when imported direct from the place of production, shall be charged upon it. It is also proposed that the test for molasses shall be lowered, and that it shall run between 30 and 35. The duty collected upon molasses last year, was in the neighborhood of \$123,000, and by lowering the duty by about one-half, it will be seen that we propose to meet a loss of revenue in this, of some \$60,000. Molasses is an article which is used very widely in the Maritime Provinces. In the Province of New Brunswick from which I come, molasses of a good grade, not the vile stuff called "black-strap," is used in all our rural districts, and the same is the case with reference to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. It is, therefore, proposed to couple the rebate on corn, when milled for human food, and the reduction of one-half of the duty of molasses, with an increased duty of 25 cents upon flour. I now come to another item about which there has been considerable discussion in the House and out of it. It is that which relates to plants, fruits, shrubs and the like, and with which this House dealt in 1888. By an Order in Council of 14th April, 1888, certain fruits and plants and shrubs were placed upon the free list. This arose from the fact that in the Tariff Act of 1879, there was a clause which left it permissive with the Government, on a certain list of articles, to either reduce the duty upon them or to remove the duty altogether when such articles were either free, or of less duty in the United States than was charged here. The matter was brought to the attention of the Government in 1888 under the peculiar circumstances which at that time prevailed. It was contended by gentlemen of the Opposition that it was not treating the United States fairly, when they had any one of these articles at a lower duty, if we did not place that article on the same tariff footing as it was in the United States. It was contended on this side of the House that this clause of the Act was simply permissive and not mandatory on the Government, and that it rested with the Government of Canada to say whether this should be done in individual instances or not, and that what was contemplated in that article in the tariff law was that when those products as a whole, or as many of them as Canada should consider it to be in her interest to reciprocate in, were placed on the free list or had a lower rate of duty imposed upon them, the Government would reduce its duties upon them to the same level. However, under the circumstances that prevailed at that time, it was decided to put these articles on the free list, and a very considerable amount of duty was lost in consequence, and

a very considerable damage was done to a large and important interest in this country. For it must be borne in mind, that the removal of the duty from those articles did not place our people in a position of fair and equal competition with the people to the south of us, and there are various considerations which will easily suggest themselves to the minds of hon. gentlemen conversant with this subject when I make that statement. For instance, there was State legislation in most of the bordering States, making it practically impossible for men who raised nursery stock on this side of the line, to undertake any profitable conduct of their business on that side, owing to the way they would be hampered as aliens engaging in trade in that country. With reference to fruits, the United States has a wide range of climate. Its fruits commence to ripen from late in the winter or early in the spring, and it has a gradation of climate enabling it to produce a certain class of fruits through a range of three or four or even five months. The season with us is short, and the competition for this reason was felt to be unfair to the large fruit-growing and nursery industries in this country. It is, therefore, proposed to put these articles back in the same place they occupied in the tariff previous to 1888, with the exception that on blackberries, gooseberries, raspberries and strawberries, the rate of duty shall be 3 cents instead of 4 cents. Then we have placed on the free list: bananas, plantains, pineapples, pomegranates, guavas, mangoes, shaddock, wild blueberries and wild strawberries, which were formerly on the dutiable list. Beet, carrot, turnip and mangold seeds, for the use of farmers of this country, are also placed on the free list. The House will recollect the discussion which took place here a short time ago on mining machinery, when I urged that the House should defer the discussion until the Government had brought down its tariff measure. All over our country the indications of interest in the development of our mining resources are plain and unmistakable; our resources are being, every year, more and more explored; we are coming ourselves to have a better and more adequate knowledge of the immense wealth we have in this line; and this information is filtering out into other countries, and is producing an interest in the minds of capitalists in other countries, which is continually growing, and which we believe will be productive of large investments in this country. On the whole, it appears to me that we are on the eve of large developments of the mining industries of this country, and in the future we may look for large accretions of interest and increasing employment of labor in the development of the vast mineral and metallic stocks which we have scattered throughout this country from Cape Breton to British Columbia. There has thus arisen a demand for free mining machinery. It is stated that the best and most improved machinery must be used by experimenters who put their money into enterprises the outcome of which they cannot certainly see. It is felt by them that the very best possible machinery should be got. It is felt by some that for a period at least there should be no restriction whatever on the buying of it, and by others, that there should be no other restriction than that imposed by the consideration whether or not the machinery is made in this country. Looking over the whole question,