

that leather belting is largely manufactured from native hides, the South American hides not being proper for the purpose, and the consequence of giving this discrimination in favor of duck manufactured elsewhere will be, to a certain extent, to substitute in the manufacture the hides imported from elsewhere instead of our own hides, which the farmers now complain are cheap enough.

Mr. BOWELL. I promised the leader of the Opposition that I would look into this matter, and give him, upon Concurrence, the reasons why it was confined to this particular industry; and if there are no good reasons for restricting it, I have no doubt my colleagues will consent to its amendment. Hides are free, for all purposes, and this duck, in the state in which it is brought into the country to be manufactured into belting and hose, is a raw material just as much as hides.

Mr. CAMERON (Middlesex). I understood from the Minister of Custom that he was deferring the consideration of some parts of this question until Concurrence, but I did not know that the particular phase of it I have just suggested had been raised. I am well aware that the importation of hides is free, but the Minister of Customs must be aware that the imported hide is not used for the purpose of manufacturing belting; that the Canadian hide is the only one adapted for that purpose, and if these materials are allowed to be admitted free, they must necessarily displace the Canadian leather to a considerable extent and restrict the market for it, and consequently restrict the demand for Canadian hides.

Mr. BOWELL. I am glad the hon. gentleman is carrying his protective principles so far. But if it can be shown that it really interferes with the manufacture of leather belting, there may possibly be a reason for adopting his suggestion. I am not aware that it does come into contact with the article to which he refers.

Mr. BLAKE. With reference to mineral waters not in bottle, I think that some further reason ought to be given than the hon. gentleman has given in this difficulty of valuing the bottle.

Mr. BOWELL. I did not say there was a difficulty in valuing the bottle; we know what they cost; but the difficulty is to know whether the water is in its natural state, or whether it has gone through some process of manufacture by being aerated, or acids being injected into it. If it comes in that state it is not natural. Consequently, difficulties have arisen in almost every port; and it was thought just as well that when it comes in bottles it should pay an *ad valorem* duty.

Mr. BLAKE. I fancy there is a large consumption of the natural mineral waters which are consumed, not only for pleasure, but frequently for health; and to increase the price of them, as they do not come into competition with any Canadian industry—

Mr. BOWELL. Oh yes, they do.

Mr. BLAKE. Not natural mineral waters.

Mr. BOWELL. Yes; there are natural mineral waters in Canada used in the same way as Apollinaris water.

Mr. BLAKE. I do not know whether they are as nice or not; but I am afraid the increased price will cause some inconvenience.

Mr. BOWELL. Not to any appreciable extent, because they now have a duty upon the bottle just in proportion to its value.

Mr. BLAKE. The effect of their paying a duty upon the bottle will be, probably, that the price of the bottle will cost more, and if the natural mineral water is imported in the cask, and then is to be bottled at the consumer's cost,

Mr. CAMERON (Middlesex).

the result is that the price is increased. At present mineral water comes in free and you get the bottle at the foreign price, plus the duty. And so it may be with many of these waters. I presume that with regard to all the sparkling waters it will be impossible to import them at all, except in bottles, and they will have to pay duty because you cannot import them in cask, I fancy, without some degree of loss of their effervescent qualities.

Mr. BOWELL. There are some waters imported in cask which keep well; but with respect to others, I think the hon. gentleman is quite correct.

Mr. BLAKE. What duty will be paid.

Mr. BOWELL. The duty will be 20 per cent.

Pitch pine, packages of not less than 15 gallons.

Mr. BOWELL. Pitch pine comes in in a variety of forms and a variety of shapes—some medicinal, or medicated, and otherwise. It was thought better that these explanations should be added to it, in order to prevent the difficulties which have arisen.

Pumice and pumice stone, ground or unground.

That is another small and apparently insignificant matter, but a great deal of trouble has arisen, because some collectors have decided that when it came in ground it was manufactured, and therefore dutiable, while others decided that it should be admitted free. Thus some of those who imported it were paying duty while others were not. The ruling of the Department has been that pumice and pumice stone in any shape may be brought into the country free. For that reason we have added the words "ground or unground."

Quercitron or oak bark, for tanning.

That is brought in in a variety of ways, and is used for medicinal purposes in some quantity, while the intention was that it should only be imported for tanning purposes. The same remark applies to resin.

Steel railway bars or rails, not including tram or street railway rails.

It has been contended by those who have imported this particular kind of rails for the purpose of constructing street railways that that class was included in the free list of steel rails when imported for railway purposes proper. That has given a great deal of difficulty, although the Department has always ruled that it did not include tram or street rails.

Tar (pine), in packages of not less than 15 gallons.

The same remark applies to this as to resin and pitch, and other articles of that character.

Mr. DAWSON. I suggest, as steel bars have been mentioned, that it would be very desirable that mining machinery, to a certain extent, should also be placed on the free list. It would encourage mining in a new country, and mining machinery such as is now required cannot be obtained in the Dominion: such, for example, as diamond drills.

Mr. BOWELL. They are free now.

Mr. GLEN. Diamond drills are made in Montreal.

Mr. DAWSON. I refer to machinery for dressing and crushing ore, and if that were placed on the free list it would encourage the mining industry.

Mr. BOWELL. Diamond drills are free, when used for prospecting for minerals.

Mr. BLAKE. They were used afterwards in working a mine.

Mr. BOWELL. They are used for boring to ascertain whether the deposits are of sufficient extent to justify working.