

would say, the best alternative duties at different rates, proportion to the different values.

T: That is my view.
 RE: Well, you have acted very w, I would urge the Hon Finance to trammel this question with any or considerations. I ask him is adian merchant precluded at this in any foreign market. Is there occurring to him through trading treat, any more than by New existing law?

T: Not when importing; but if rent.

T: It is the same thing whether Montreal or New York. It is open to use whatever route he pleases exactly, and even the buyer has of two markets. I feel it is necessary we should have more time to the practical effect of these to be on the commercial inter- r. It is no light thing to make tariff of a character to disturb al regulations, and deter mer- arking in great trading enter- to build up the general pros- r. He must feel some sort of stability of our systems, and fear all kinds of violent and s. (Hear, hear.) I think that as these should not be lost ernment of the country.

These objections do not effect the country. It is not to be importations by any particular immaterial by what country here.

N—That is not the doctrine of

venture to enter my solemn against this doctrine. I say the interest of the coun-

The agriculturist cannot mmerce; neither can one or msh without manufactures. one are not opposed to those country can flourish unless sts go hand in hand. ater of indifference whether ade or not; whether we imend altogether on New York extraordinary, and a state- I protest. [Cheers.] Look ital being disseminated inent by means of our foreign ; Lawrence. Why, at the e some 70 or 80 ships in that gging cargoes from Europe eading the coarse grains and

other products of Canada for shipment to Eng- land. Several millions bushels of oats are thus being placed in those vessels, which cannot be sent to the United States owing to the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty. Will my hon friend, the Finance Minister, tell us, in view of such facts, that foreign commerce is of no use to a country, and that we should be content to be the brokers or retail dealers for the New York merchants? If we cannot build up a trade of our own, we are not fit to assume the position of a new nation- ality. (Cheers.) To say that the merchants of Canada are not to go to China, India, Cuba or South America, and import thence coffee, tea, sugar, and other products of these lands direct, but that they must purchase them second-hand in the United States from our rivals, the New York merchants, is a doctrine we should never have heard in this place.

Hon Mr HOLTON—It is the doctrine of the Government.

Hon Mr ROSE continued: I apologise for this divergence from the strict line of argument in answer to the statement of the Finance Minister, that his changes are a gradual approximation to the tariffs of the Lower Provinces. Now, with regard to the article of tea, from the duty on which are obtained nearly a twelfth part of our customs revenue. It is proposed to add three cents per lb to the present duty, which will make the average duty twelve and a half cents per lb. The tariff in New Brunswick on this article is, on ordinary black tea four cents per lb, and eight cents for green tea.

Hon Mr BROWN—That is to equalize the tariffs between the different countries. (Laugh- ter.)

Hon Mr ROSE—In Nova Scotia the duty on black tea is six cents per lb; in Prince Edward's Island it is fourpence per lb, Island currency, equal to 5½ cents, while ours is twelve and a half, as I said before. Is this a gradual assimilation to the tariff of the Lower Provinces? This is not a small and unimportant article that we are dealing with, but one that enters into the consumption of every man, woman and child in the country.

Hon Mr GALT—How can you raise any objection to this commodity when it is all imported. There is no tea produced in this country to come into competition with any of the interests you seem desirous of protecting, and the present change is merely a question of revenue.

Hon Mr ROSE—According to the doctrine of my hon friend, that it is of no importance whether our trade comes by the St Lawrence or New York, it would be a matter of perfect indifference. But if, on the contrary, it be a matter of importance that our importations should come by the St Lawrence, would he in face of the present changes if engaged in mercantile

transactions, be disposed to order a cargo of tea from the place of growth, knowing that in six or eight months there must probably be further and even greater changes in our tariff, perhaps reducing duties on such articles to the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia standard? Seeing that it takes upwards of six months to bring a cargo of tea from China, our Canadian merchants will be deterred from such enterprises by the prospect of such further changes within a short period.

Hon. Mr. GALT—The article could go into bond.

Hon. Mr. ROSE—Yes, but the importer may be compelled to take it out of bond before you again lower the duty. We had a practical illustration of the loss to the importer about the time the last tariff changes were made. A cargo of coffee from Rio Janeiro was on its way to Montreal; but the vessel happened to be detained a few days a short distance below Quebec; before her arrival at which place, the changes had taken effect, which caused a loss to the importers of, as I have been informed, nearly \$30,000 in additional duties.

Hon. Mr. GALT—It must have been a long time ago.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON—It was in 1862.

Hon. Mr. GALT—The tendency of the tariff has been downwards since 1859 as regards coffee.

Hon. Mr. DORION here read from the journals an extract of the tariff of 1862 showing there had been an increase in the duty on coffee, making three cents in addition to the ad valorem duty.

Hon. Mr. GALT—I must say it is an old worn out cry that the merchant pays the duty. It is the consumer who pays it, and it is perfectly absurd for any one to say that the merchant who imports a cargo of tea suffers any loss from any change in the duties.

Hon. Mr. ROSE—I am perfectly aware that as a general rule the consumer pays the duty; but the hon. gentleman knows that on changes of duty the price which the merchant can get rarely increases in proportion to the duty, simply because the market may have been, or may afterwards be fully supplied. My hon. friend has made light of my proposition that the direct foreign trade of a country is of some value, and he asked what difference can it make to the consumer whether we import by way of New York or Montreal. Sir, I contend that the commercial interests of the country are as much entitled to its consideration and guardianship as the other interests. (Hear, hear.) Now, what is the position of our merchants as regards the importation of teas in the United States? They do not affect to undervalue foreign direct trade, but show their appreciation of it by giving ten per cent bounty on direct importations from China. Thus a mer-