

The Budget—Mr. Meighen

argument they have advanced. Hon. gentlemen have been advancing the argument all along that when you impose a duty you make the farmer or the consumer pay the whole amount of it not only on imported goods but over the whole line of similar Canadian-made goods which they buy. Well, if such is the case in boots and shoes I am sorry for the consumer. Of boots and shoes we are importing about 5 per cent of our supply, so that for every dollar of the duty paid in taxes, according to hon. gentlemen to my left, there is paid the sum of \$19 to the manufacturer in Canada. And this, mark you, is a "revenue" tariff government. Let hon. gentlemen listen to the Prime Minister when he speaks and they will find him extolling the virtues of a "revenue" tariff. Yet this government of "revenue" tariff is taking, in the boot and shoe industry, about \$300,000 a year in duties, getting it only from 5 per cent of an importation. The government know right well that if they cut the duty in two on boots and shoes they would get far more revenue for the country. Will the Prime Minister dispute that? Do not let him or any other hon. member say that I am suggesting the cutting of the duty on boots and shoes. I would not have made the reduction of last year, for I believe in fair protection for boots and shoes the same as for everything else. But imagine a government pretending to advocate a "revenue" tariff, and collecting a duty which it does on the importation of a commodity in respect of which, according to their friends and allies, there is involved an imposition on the consumer of \$19 for every one dollar collected in taxes. No; the hon. member for Quebec county (Mr. Lavigneur) says: "Keep your sacrilegious hands off boots and shoes." But he is just the same as the others. What about the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe)? I warned hon. gentlemen to my left two months ago that if they wanted to test the government's real opinion of the principle which they—the government—are always denouncing, all that they had to do was to turn their barrage against boots and shoes. Why, when a delegation came down two weeks or so ago the Minister of Justice appeared before them and, as reported to me, tried to have them think that we were attacking the duty on boots and shoes on this side. The minister nods; he says no. Well, I am glad to have him confess openly in this House that we have not attacked it. But I do know that he painted himself as Horatius on the bridge standing gallantly against the Tarquin hosts.

[Mr. Meighen.]

Mr. LAPOINTE: My hon. friend from Lanark (Mr. Preston) yesterday said that the Minister of Justice was looking after his own constituents and was not touching boots and shoes.

Mr. MEIGHEN: So he is; but why not look after others too? The Minister, says, "Don't put your hands into my county". And what about the Minister of Customs, the hon. member for Three Rivers, (Mr. Bureau)? He is ready to vote dismay to the city of Hamilton; he is quite prepared to sacrifice the city of Toronto, the city of Brantford, and indeed to sacrifice all his divorced wife's relations so long as Three Rivers is left untouched. But if any one attempts seriously to invade the industries there, he will know something of what it means to prod the tiger in his lair. Again, what about the Minister of Railways himself? He stands in the citadel of Brockville—there at least is his home—and, while he has not done much to the constituency of South Essex, he is ready nevertheless to strike a blow at Hamilton, at Toronto, at Brantford, at Smith's Falls, in short, at all those counties which suffer particularly from the virtual abolition of duties on their manufactured products, but glancing jealously at the Canada Forgings planed in Brockville he holds up his warning hand and says: "Keep your fingers out of my lawn mowers". He extracts lawn mowers—

Mr. GRAHAM: My right hon. friend, if he will read the tariff carefully, will gather a great deal of information in regard to other items which are affected very materially and which I might say something about.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I have read the tariff, and I have the information, but I am on lawn mowers just now. I know that these articles are extracted from a schedule of spades, shovels and the like which the minister reduces and lawn mowers are left with a duty of 20 per cent, 30 per cent and 32½ per cent. The whole thing is a calculation of how few constituencies, and consequently how few votes, need be sacrificed in order that the government may purchase the support of hon. gentlemen to my left.

On motion of Mr. Meighen the debate was adjourned.

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question being put, pursuant to rule.