

Mr. LANDERKIN. How much was imported last year?

Mr. FOSTER. We do not get these figures in the Trade and Navigation Returns.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). It came in of its own accord.

Item agreed to.

Cane, rattans and reeds, not manufactured, free.

Mr. FOSTER. Drop out the words "and reeds." Reeds are manufactured from the cane. They bear a duty of 17½ per cent.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). The cane is split.

Mr. FOSTER. But this is cane not manufactured.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). What becomes of the reeds?

Mr. FOSTER. They are manufactured, and come in under the dutiable list at 17½ per cent.

Item agreed to.

Wrought iron or steel pipe fittings and chilled iron or steel rolls, 35 per cent ad valorem.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What was the previous duty?

Mr. FOSTER. It was 35 per cent. It was not provided for in the proposition already submitted, and unless specified as 35 per cent it would come under the 27½ per cent list.

Item agreed to.

Switches, frogs, crossings and intersections for railways, 30 per cent ad valorem.

Mr. FOSTER. These are placed at the same duties as are levied on steel rails.

Item agreed to.

Yarns, composed wholly or in part of wool, worsted, the hair of the alpaca goat, or other like animal, costing 20 cents per pound and under, 5 cents per pound and 20 per cent ad valorem.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What is the minimum value of these yarns?

Mr. FOSTER. They run down to 12 or 13 cents.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. So the duty will be equivalent to 60 per cent?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes; the tax is high on the lowest grade. I suppose the yarn coming in is worth about half that which is paid for wool from which a fair yarn could be made.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What is the object of levying such an outrageous tax as 60 per cent?

Mr. FOSTER. The object is to keep the mills which are spinning these yarns at work. They are used almost wholly for the manufacture of carpets. The duty on these yarns previously was 10 cents per pound and 20 per cent; we now place them at 5 cents per pound and 20 per cent. The duty

affects only carpets manufactured, and they have a protection afforded them.

Item agreed to.

Mosaic flooring of any material, 30 per cent ad valorem.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What is the purpose of levying this duty?

Mr. FOSTER. Finished marble is 30 per cent, and this mosaic flooring may be of marble or some other material used for the floors of hallways.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It may also be of wood.

Mr. FOSTER. Under the old tariff we had an item providing that hemp and flax twine when used for boat and ship sails should be taxed 5 per cent ad valorem. There is only a small importation, so small that we thought the item might be dropped. But it appears that this article is imported both on the Atlantic and Pacific coast, and is used for making sails, and it is therefore proposed to restore the item at the old rate. I move that the committee rise and report certain resolutions as adopted, and ask to sit again.

Mr. MULOCK. Before you leave the Chair, Sir, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance if he is willing to reconsider the duty on rice. I hardly can think the Minister fully understands the nature of the tax he is imposing upon this article of consumption. It amounts to almost 100 per cent, and it makes it a very expensive commodity to the great numbers who use it. I do not think that he can justify that enormous tax.

Mr. FOSTER. I think the House had a pretty full discussion on the question of rice. So far as I am concerned, the matter might be taken as settled.

Mr. MULOCK. Perhaps the Minister would like to hear the view of it which is taken in the press. As it might influence his opinion, I will read the following letter from the Montreal 'Star' of Saturday last:—

*To the Editor of the Star:*

SIR,—On March 28th last, the Finance Minister announced that the duty on cleaned rice would be reduced from 1¼c. per pound to 1c., and that the duty on unhulled rice would be ½c. per pound. Presuming that Mr. Foster intended to stand by this duty on rice, we ordered several thousand bags of cleaned rice from Europe, and the first importation of 1,500 bags has now arrived.

It appears, however, on April 21, three weeks after the tariff had been brought down, Mr. Foster decided to go back to the old duty, and he then announced the duty would be 1¼ cents on cleaned, and 3-10ths of a cent per pound on uncleaned, and we now have to pay 1¼ cent per pound on rice bought at the time Mr. Foster stated that the duty would be 1 cent per pound.