

of foreign tobacco, equally reducing the revenue. Such would be the consequence of this motion. If it was admitted that a duty should be imposed on tobacco—and his hon. friend admitted that this was the case—it should be levied equally on all tobacco, no matter where it was manufactured, whether in this country or abroad; and if a distinction were made, and the duty imposed on the imported article only, what would be the consequence? The Canadian farmer would sell his tobacco in the leaf to the merchant who would retail it, without paying any Excise duty, and then certainly all, or at least a great portion of the consumers, would buy the Canadian and not the manufactured tobacco, which would occasion an enormous deficit in the revenue of the country. The position of affairs was this:—We now obtained about a million of revenue from this source, and if home-grown tobacco was not subject to duty, while imported tobacco was dutiable, the latter would certainly not enter into consumption. Again the manufacturers themselves would take advantage of this state of affairs, and would mix the Canadian with the foreign tobacco, and thus the duty would not be paid save upon a very small portion of the imported article which entered into consumption. He submitted, in reply to the hon. member for Beauce, first, that even if the motion were adopted, this country could never become a country, which was adapted to the cultivation of tobacco, which could advantageously compete with the imported article. The Northern States of the American Union were, in fact, not so well adapted for the growth of this article as the southern; we were still further north, and, as a consequence, we had nothing to gain from the growth of this article. The object of our people should not be to encourage the cultivation of an inferior article, but to encourage the growth of such products as were adapted to our soil and climate. In the second place, it was impossible to levy a duty on foreign tobacco, unless the same duty was imposed on Canadian tobacco. If they removed the duty from the home-grown article, the effect of this step would be entirely to destroy the revenue from this source. He sub-

mitted that tobacco was one of those articles on which a duty should be levied, and that, in consequence of this fact, it would be a most erroneous and ruinous policy, with regard to the revenue, to remove this duty. His hon. friend did not go to the length of advocating the removal of the duty from foreign and home-grown tobacco, and he (Mr. Laurier) held that, if the duty on Canadian tobacco was removed, the effect of this step would be to destroy entirely the revenue obtained from this source; and, besides, at the present time the country was not in a condition to be able to bear the loss of revenue which the removal of the duty on this tobacco would necessitate.

MR. LANGEVIN said that the hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue objected to the motion, on the ground that we could not profitably cultivate tobacco in this country. The hon. gentleman added that our climate was not suitable for such cultivation; that early frosts prevented it from coming to maturity; that the season was too short, and that we could not cultivate it. In reply to the hon. gentleman, he would say that, if this was the case, there was no cause to fear for the revenue; and, as a consequence, no danger could be apprehended from the adoption of this motion. The hon. gentleman gave the reason he had mentioned, evidently with the view of killing the motion of the hon. member for Beauce; but the hon. gentleman went further, and said that we did not cultivate tobacco, and that we could not succeed in cultivating it. He did not know whether the hon. gentleman had witnessed the cultivation of tobacco, where he lived, in the Province of Quebec; but it was, at all events, cultivated elsewhere in the Province. In certain counties in Quebec, considerable quantities of tobacco were raised, and oats, and barley, and wheat as well. The climate of Canada was, therefore, favourable to the cultivation of this article. It was, in fact, advantageously cultivated in the counties of Joliette, Berthier and Montcalm, and in great quantity. He would go further; the same statement applied to the county of Dorchester and to the county of Charlevoix, on the