

of duty. I am satisfied if the hon. Minister gives this matter his attention—because it is a serious matter, as this is an industry employing many men—he will alter the proportion so as to make it 1½ cents and 25 per cent and 1 cent and 20 per cent on the larger, which would be making a corresponding rate of duty. I have already referred to strap and T hinges, and these other heavy goods. They are made in many places in Canada and sold at much lower prices than before, owing to home competition and the employment of Canadian labour. The protection is sufficient. The manufacturer at Gananoque, of whom I speak, as I have already said, is not a political supporter or friend of mine, but this is a Canadian industry, and when such an industry is in question, I do not care whether it is in my own town or any other, I do not care whether the proprietor be Conservative or Reformer, so long as it is employing Canadian labour and supplying Canadian goods to the Canadian people at as cheap or cheaper rates than we could import them, I stand up for protection of that industry.

Mr. EDGAR. I do not know whether it is safe for me to occupy the time of the committee for a moment in telling a story. I know it is a risky thing to do, but I am so strongly impressed with the direct applicability of this story to the present attitude of the hon. gentlemen on the other side that I am going to risk my reputation as a member of the House by trying to relate it. I only heard it the other day, and it is pertinent to this item. I heard the other day that a party of young men went out on a hunting expedition, and undertook to do their own cooking by turns. The one who was chosen first to do the cooking undertook it on the condition that the first man who grumbled at the food would be obliged afterwards to do the cooking himself. Well, Sir, it is wonderful how they enjoyed the food for a long time. At last, the cook determined to be relieved from his position, and he filled up a baking of bread full of salt. It was placed upon the table, and one of the party began to eat it, and was almost choked. "Oh, thunder, that salt!" he said, "I am choking, but I like it, I like it, I like it." Although these items choke hon. gentlemen opposite, although half a dozen of them have just been bitterly protesting against the items, still they will swallow them at the request of the Finance Minister. After this tariff Bill is passed, even if the hon. gentleman leaves it in this way, they will go before the people and say: We like it, we like it, we like it; it is perfect.

Mr. FRASER. I really think the Finance Minister should let this item stand. There are important questions for consideration. The hon. member for York (Mr. Maclean) advises him to consult with the manufacturers. It would be exceedingly interesting to continue a discussion upon this question, only I am afraid that there would be a good

deal of bolting on the other side. But really nothing shows the character of the whole tariff more than this discussion. Here are several hon. gentlemen who have some interest or other to conserve, getting up and disapproving of this item. The hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) distinctly tells us that he wants this duty changed in the interest of the man who is opposed to him. I suppose he wants to make a protectionist of him.

Mr. IVES. Is that the motive that actuated hon. gentlemen opposite when they were asking for more protection for agricultural implements?

Mr. FRASER. No. We said it was unfair that one article should be taxed 200 per cent and another article only taxed 20 per cent. But the hon. gentleman from Leeds can see that in helping this unfortunate opponent of his he is at the same time helping all his own friends, because if he can plead to have the duty fixed in favour of an opponent, he can plead with twice as much eloquence to have it fixed to help his own friends. That is the character of the whole business. Whenever hon. gentlemen opposite can forward their own interests by pleading in behalf of an opponent, they will stand up and do so, but there is no question whether the matter is in the interest of the whole community. The only thought is about a particular town, or a particular constituency, as if this great country was run by parish politics of that kind, and you were going to make it great and wealthy by simply protecting some particular interest in some particular town. That is the whole policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. At the same time, lest there should be any trouble among the Finance Minister's friends, I do not wish that he would let this item stand. It would show us two things. In the first place, it would show us how far these hon. gentlemen, if they did not get what they wanted, would still feel inclined to follow the Finance Minister, and in the second place, it would show us whether the men who are coming here to show him that he is wrong—although he has taken over a year to consider this question of bolts, nuts and screws—whether they are able to bring sufficient influence to bear upon him to cause him to change his mind in the direction desired by hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. McMULLEN. I hardly think the Finance Minister can stand the appeal of the chief whip of his party on behalf of this man who makes bolts. We know that some time ago when the Finance Minister was considering the question of protection on democrat wagons, which he had reduced to 25 per cent, at the mandate of the whip, he increased it to 35 per cent.

Mr. TAYLOR. That was a clerical error.

Mr. McMULLEN. Well, I think the Finance Minister had better, in response to the appeal of the whip, pronounce this a clerical