

parts of the British Empire, but the people of the British Isles who purchase seventy million dollars worth of our raw products freed from customs imposts, should receive the same treatment at our hands.

Hon. Mr. DEVER—After the exhausting labours we have had for several days and the long speeches we have had to listen to and suffer, it is perhaps out of place for me to attempt to say a word or two at this late hour, but after the critical speech delivered by the hon. leader of the opposition, who was for many years Minister of Customs and a member of the cabinet that carried on legislation for Canada nearly since confederation commenced, I feel that I would be neglecting my duty if I did not take the liberty of making a few remarks on some of those propositions that he has placed before the House. His first proposition, as I heard it, was with reference to the fact that the government should promote trade with the West Indies. Well we all are most anxious to promote trade with any country, and especially with the West Indies. But, may I ask him, did he or his government at any time ever arrange a tariff so as to enable us to trade with the West Indies? We all know, hon. gentlemen, that the great exports, the great natural products of the West Indies, are sugar, molasses and the products of molasses. The first act of a former government of Canada was to introduce an extreme measure of protection to exclude at least one-third of the staple goods of the West Indies from Canada, and instead of holding out inducements to the West Indies to trade with us for our flour, cheese, butter and other commodities, the government substituted for what we could get from the West Indies, and manufactured 4,000,000 gallons of proof spirit per annum. Well, hon. gentlemen, I dare say those engaged in the manufacture of this spirit would hold up both hands and exclaim that every man was unpatriotic if he criticised or wished to prevent them from manufacturing the native spirit. But I simply ask this House and the country of what advantage is the manufacture of 2,000,000 gallons of alcohol in this country, principally from foreign grain, compared with a third at least of the trade with the West Indies which we can secure if we offer inducements. The people of the West Indies, largely, properly and naturally manufacture spirit, and at a very low rate, and

it is good spirit, because it is manufactured out of the native sugar cane juice; and if we could hold out the inducement that we would take their sugar as one-third of their cargo, their molasses as another third of their cargo, and their rum as another third, we might say very properly to them: "gentlemen, we place before you a very fair proposition, one that will suit us, and we do not see why it should not suit you also." Therefore, on that basis I think we could induce the people of the West Indies to trade with us extensively. There is no reason why they should not. They want our goods, but they say we do not take their goods, and consequently it would be a one-sided trade; and therefore they refuse it. I wish this point to be thoroughly understood, because whether this government will pursue the same scale of tariff or not, I am not prepared to say; but whilst they do, I presume to state that it is an utter impossibility to develop trade with the West Indies. We must tell them we will take their products if we expect trade with them, just as we should tell France we will take their wines and their brandy if we expect them to trade with us. Now I want to make a few remarks as to the item of shrinkage which was referred to by the hon. gentleman who was at one time Minister of Customs and who ought to be an authority on these matters. I wish to point out—and I do not know whose fault it is, I do not wish to impute fault to anybody if I can help it—in Canada according to the present system of bonding liquors they are placed in private warehouses. In other countries, especially in Britain, they have Queen's warehouses, and we formerly had Queen's warehouses in New Brunswick before we came into confederation, all spirit had to be bonded in the Queen's warehouse, and under circumstances that precluded the possibility of suspicion that any tampering could take place; consequently if an outage were found when the package of liquors was being taken out of the custom-house, the treasurer was perfectly justified in allowing for the outage, because he was sure that there was no tampering with the packages. They were in the public, or Queen's warehouse under a trustworthy officer, at a distance from all possibility of access to those packages of goods. But now the case is very different. There are private warehouses, and although I believe the officers are very accurate, and perhaps anxious to perform their functions honestly